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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

New York, N.Y.

4 v.

18 Cr. 0036(JPO)

5 DAVID MIDDENDORF and JEFFREY
6 WADA,

7 Defendants.

-----x

9 February 12, 2019
10 9:40 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. J. PAUL OETKEN,

13 District Judge
14 and a jury

15 APPEARANCES

16 GEOFFREY S. BERMAN

United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

17 BY: REBECCA G. MERMELSTEIN

18 AMANDA K. KRAMER

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APPEARANCES CONTINUED

BROWN RUDNICK LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Jeffrey Wada

BY: STEPHEN COOK

JUSTIN S. WEDDLE

SELBIE JASON

- and -

LATHAM & WATKINS

BY: JASON MASASHI OHTA

- also present -

Lyeson Daniel, Postal Inspector

Virginia Faughnan, Postal Inspector

Luke Urbanczyk, Government Paralegal

Nathaniel Cooney, Government Paralegal

Kiezia Girard-Lawrence, Postal Inspector

Stephanie O'Connor, Defendant Middendorf paralegal

Sarah Chojecki, Defendant Wada paralegal

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(Trial resumed; jury not present)

THE COURT: Good morning, everyone.

Unfortunately, we are still missing one juror. Two of the jurors were about 10 minutes late and we are waiting for the final juror. Mr. Hampton had taken all their cell phones so he just tried calling and she answered and she's in a taxi. She said she woke up late and -- it is juror no. 36 -- I'm sorry, not 36 -- well, she was 36 but 16, juror no. 16, Ms. King. She said she is in a cab 25 minutes away a minute ago. So, we can either wait, or not.

MS. MERMELSTEIN: May we have a moment to confer, your Honor?

THE COURT: Sure.

(Counsel conferring)

MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, we understand that defense counsel wants to wait for the juror to arrive so we have no objection to that.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. COOK: Yes, your Honor. We were here late, it is the first day.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. COOK: We should give her the benefit of the doubt.

THE COURT: And you agree?

MR. BOXER: We do.

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1 THE COURT: I think that makes sense. I mean, I would
2 hate to give the other jurors the thought that they could do
3 the same thing. So, we will keep you posted. I think it might
4 be -- well, it will probably be 20 minutes or so. So, does
5 anybody have anything they wanted to address in advance of
6 openings?

7 MR. BOXER: No, your Honor.

8 MR. COOK: No, your Honor.

9 MS. ESTES: Your Honor, just one thing.

10 As your Honor knows, there was motion practice over
11 the weekend about whether the exhibit of the list on
12 Middendorf's phone, the notes function, is admissible. I think
13 the parties agree that because Middendorf admitted that he kept
14 a list on the notes function that at least something about that
15 is going to come into evidence. So, we are going to open on
16 that. We are not going to open on when the list was created or
17 anything like that, just that in 2017 he wrote down the list on
18 a notes function.

19 THE COURT: You expect that to come in through
20 testimony of a witness, that fact?

21 MS. ESTES: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.

23 All right. We will be in recess for about 20 minutes
24 and we will let you know. If you can stick around we will let
25 you know when the final juror arrives.

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1 (recess)

2 THE COURT: All the jurors are here now. I understand
3 that there is an issue that the parties wanted to address but
4 if it can wait, we can bring in the jurors and start.

5 MR. COOK: It was our issue, your Honor, and we can
6 wait.

7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Ready for the jury?

8 MS. KRAMER: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise. Jury present.

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(Jury present)

THE COURT: Please, be seated.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

THE JURY: Good morning.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, now you have been worn in as jurors in this case. I want to tell you briefly about your duties as jurors and give you some instructions. After the trial after all of the evidence, I will give you detailed instructions and those instructions will control your deliberations.

At the end of the presentation of the evidence and my final charge to you, it will be your duty to decide from the evidence what the facts are and then apply the law to those facts. In doing so, you must follow the law as I give it to you. Remember, you are the sole judges of the facts.

You must not take anything I may say or do during the trial as indicating what your verdict should be. Do not be influenced by my taking notes or typing something on my laptop. What I write down may have nothing to do with this case or this trial and you should not be concerned with it.

You, the jury, and I the Court, play different roles in this proceeding. My main duties are to rule on objections, oversee the trial, and at the end of the trial, to instruct you on the law that applies. Your duty is to accept those instructions of law and to apply them to the facts as you find

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1 them.

2 So, as members of the jury, you are the sole and
3 exclusive judges of the facts. You pass on the evidence. You
4 determine the credibility of the witnesses. You resolve any
5 conflicts that there may be in the testimony. You draw
6 whatever reasonable inferences that you decide to draw from the
7 facts as you find them, and you determine the weight of the
8 evidence.

9 To that end, do not conclude from any of my questions
10 or any of my rulings on objections or anything else that I say
11 or do during the trial that I have any view on the credibility
12 of witnesses, or how you should decide the case. Any opinion I
13 might have regarding the facts is of no consequence. It is
14 your duty, your sworn duty, and you have taken the oath, as
15 jurors, to determine the facts.

16 Now, just as I have my duties as a judge and you have
17 your duties as jurors, it will be the duty of each lawyer in
18 the case to object when the other side offers testimony or
19 other evidence that the attorney believes is not properly
20 admissible. It will be my job to rule on those objections.
21 Therefore, why an objection was made or how I rule on it is not
22 your business, not your concern. You should draw no inference
23 from the bare fact that an attorney objects to any evidence,
24 nor should you draw any inference from the fact that I might
25 sustain an objection or overrule an objection.

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1 From time to time, the lawyers and I may hold
2 conferences at side bar out of your hearing. Those conferences
3 involve procedural and other legal matters and none of the
4 events relating to those conferences should enter continue your
5 deliberations.

6 To be clear, the personality and conduct of counsel in
7 the courtroom are not at issue. If you form any reactions of
8 any kind to any of the lawyers in the case, favorable or
9 unfavorable, whether you approve or disapprove of their
10 behavior as advocates, those reactions should not be part of
11 your deliberations.

12 Now, I have referred to the term "evidence" in this
13 case and that raises an important question that I want to
14 explain: What is evidence?

15 Evidence consists of the sworn testimony of the
16 witnesses, the exhibits that are received in evidence, and the
17 stipulations of the parties, that is, agreements of the parties
18 about certain facts. In determining the facts you must rely on
19 your own recollection of the evidence.

20 So, what is not evidence? The following does not
21 count as evidence:

22 First, any testimony that I strike or exclude. If I
23 say "that is stricken," that is not evidence and I will direct
24 you not to consider it as evidence.

25 Second, any exhibit that was not received in evidence.

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1 Third, arguments by lawyers are not evidence and the
2 reason is simple. Advocates -- lawyers -- are not witnesses.
3 The opening and closing arguments of each party explain how
4 they want you to analyze and think about the evidence which
5 consists of the testimony of witnesses and the documents and
6 exhibits that are entered into evidence. What the lawyers will
7 say is intended to help you understand the evidence or the lack
8 of evidence when you deliberate to reach your verdict. But,
9 only the witness' answers are to be considered evidence, not
10 the attorneys' questions.

11 Finally, any statement that I may make does not count
12 as evidence.

13 You will have an opportunity to observe the witnesses.
14 It will be your job to decide how believable or credible each
15 witness was in his or her testimony. You are the sole judges
16 of the credibility of each witness and the importance of his or
17 her testimony. It is for you, the jury, and you alone, not the
18 lawyers, not the witnesses, and not me as the Judge, to decide
19 the credibility of witnesses who testify and the weight that
20 their testimony deserves.

21 The ultimate question for you to decide in passing on
22 credibility is did the witness tell the truth before you in
23 this courtroom?

24 Now, this is a criminal case. That means that the law
25 presumes each defendant to be innocent of all charges. The

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1 government has the burden of proving each defendant's guilt
2 beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden does not shift to the
3 defendants. In other words, the defendants do not have to
4 prove their innocence. They are presumed to be innocent of the
5 charges in the indictment. Each defendant, therefore, begins
6 the trial with a clean slate. This presumption of innocence
7 alone is sufficient to acquit each defendant unless you, as
8 jurors, are unanimously convinced beyond a reasonable doubt, of
9 that defendant's guilt after a careful and impartial
10 consideration of all of the evidence in the case. It is
11 removed, if and only if you, as members of the jury, are
12 satisfied that the government has sustained its burden of
13 proving each particular defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable
14 doubt.

15 I also want to caution you about certain principles
16 governing your conduct as jurors. First, and I highlighted
17 some of these last night before you went home. First, you may
18 not talk to each other about the case or about anyone having to
19 do with the case until the end of the case when I send the jury
20 to the jury room to deliberate. I will instruct you at that
21 time that you are then free to begin deliberating as a jury.
22 That's very important. As the case is going on you are not to
23 talk about, oh, what I thought about that witness or that piece
24 of evidence. It is only when all of the evidence is done that
25 the jury can deliberate. You are welcome to talk to each other

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1 about your kids and the weather and whatever else you want but
2 not about this case or about the evidence as it is coming in.

3 Second, you may not talk with anyone else about this
4 case or with anyone who has anything to do with it, again,
5 until the trial has ended and you have been discharged as
6 jurors. Anyone else includes members of your family and your
7 friends. You may tell them that you are a juror in a criminal
8 case, but please do not tell them anything else about it until
9 after you have been discharged by me at the end of the trial.

10 Third, do not talk with anyone about the case, do not
11 let anyone talk to you about the case or about anyone having
12 anything to do with it. If someone tries to speak to you about
13 the case during the trial, please, report it to me immediately
14 through Mr. Hampton or a court security officer. This includes
15 lawyers and witnesses in the case.

16 So, if you happen to run into one of the lawyers or
17 witnesses in the hallway or in the elevator, please, do not
18 speak to them. If they don't speak to you it doesn't mean
19 they're being rude, it is because I have told them not to speak
20 with anyone on the jury while the trial is going on.

21 Fourth, you may not do any research or investigation
22 about the case on your own. Do not read any news stories or
23 articles about the case or anyone having to do with it. You
24 may not use Google or the Internet or any other source to
25 research an aspect about the case or any of the people

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involved.

Also, do not go to visit any of the scenes that might come up during the trial. And this is important. This is because the case must be decided based on the evidence admitted in this trial. The parties have a right to that and it is your duty to follow that instruction.

Also, please do not use any social media to discuss the case or any of the people involved. That means no Facebook or Twitter or SnapChat or any social media sites having to do with the case; or blogging about the case at all during the trial.

The parties are entitled to have you personally render a verdict on the case, in the case, based on your independent evaluation of the evidence presented here in this courtroom in this trial. Speaking to others about the case, including your family before you deliberate, or exposing yourself to things outside the courtroom relating to the case, would compromise your service and the fairness to the parties.

Finally, I am going to outline briefly the summary of the stages of the trial for you.

In a few minutes each party will be able to make an opening statement, though they are not required to. An opening statement is not evidence. It is an outline by that party, by their lawyer, intends to prove and it helps you follow the evidence.

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1 Next, the government will present witnesses and the
2 defendants may cross-examine the witnesses. The defendants are
3 not required to present any witnesses or evidence but they may,
4 if they wish.

5 After that, the attorneys will make their closing
6 arguments or summations to summarize or give you their
7 interpretation of the evidence. As with opening statements,
8 the closing arguments are not evidence. After the closing
9 arguments, I will give you instructions on the law and then you
10 will retire to deliberate on your verdict in the jury room.

11 Please do not make up your mind about what the verdict
12 should be until I have instructed you on the law at the end of
13 a case. Keep an open mind until then and you have gone to the
14 jury room and you and your fellow jurors have had a chance to
15 discuss the evidence. Keep an open mind.

16 The parties deserve and the law requires that you give
17 them an opportunity to be fully heard. That concludes my
18 preliminary instructions and we are now prepared to have
19 opening statements by counsel for the parties. We will begin
20 with the government.

21 Ms. Estes?

22 MS. ESTES: Yes, your Honor.

23 Good morning. This is a case about cheating and
24 corruption. It is about high-level executives at KPMG, a major
25 accounting firm, conspired to steal secret information. Now,

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1 why did they do it? So they could cheat. The KPMG executives
2 used that stolen information to cheat on inspections into the
3 quality of KPMG's work. And these inspections were kind of
4 like tests, tests that were very important to KPMG. Now, KPMG
5 had been failing these tests so something had to change but
6 instead of playing by the rules, they decided to game the
7 system. Now, how did they do it? By stealing and using
8 confidential information from the regulator who conducts the
9 inspections into KPMG's work. The regulator is the Public
10 Company Accounting Oversight Board also known as the PCAOB. I
11 will refer to it as the Oversight Board.

12 How did they get access to the information from the
13 Oversight Board? From corrupt insiders at the Board who were
14 willing to betray their duty of trust and confidentiality and
15 leak the information to KPMG.

16 This man, David Middendorf, he was one of the KPMG
17 executives who carried out the cheating scheme. He oversaw the
18 inspections group at KPMG so he was responsible for making sure
19 they were doing well on inspections and when they were doing
20 poorly, he was the one who had to turn things around.

21 This man, Jeffrey Wada, he was one of the corrupt
22 insiders at the Oversight Board. Throughout the scheme he
23 worked at the Board, he stole confidential information, and he
24 passed it on to his criminal associates at KPMG.

25 So, Middendorf and Wada, they were two links in a

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1 chain of corruption and that's why we are here today, because
2 these two men engaged in a criminal conspiracy to steal
3 confidential information from the Oversight Board. It was
4 cheating, plain and simple, and we are here to hold them
5 accountable for their crimes.

6 So, what will the evidence show? Now, before I get
7 into the cheating scheme I want to talk about some important
8 background information you will learn during the trial. You
9 will learn all about accounting firms like KPMG, how they do
10 their work and how they're regulated.

11 You will learn that KPMG is one of the nation's four
12 largest accounting firms and one of the biggest pieces of its
13 business is auditing public companies which are just companies
14 whose shares trade on the stock exchange, companies like Apple
15 or Coca-Cola.

16 Now, each year public companies have to file financial
17 statements publicly with the United States Securities and
18 Exchange Commission, an important government agency. Now, why
19 do they have to do that? So that the investing public can look
20 at the financial statements in deciding whether they want to
21 buy shares of stock in a company.

22 So, these financial statements, they give an important
23 picture of a public company's financial health. Is it
24 profitable? What are its assets? What are its debts? Should
25 I buy or should I sell?

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1 Now, because these financial statements are so
2 important, you can't just assume everything a company says in
3 them is correct. So, during this trial you will learn that the
4 law requires that independent auditors go through the financial
5 statements, they examine them, they test them, and they
6 ultimately sign off on their accuracy. They act as a watchdog.

7 Now, when the auditors go through the financial
8 statements, when they run through all the numbers, that's what
9 an audit is. And then they certify that the statements are
10 accurate. And that's important so that the public can rely on
11 those financial statements in deciding whether they want to buy
12 or sell shares of stock in a company. So, the auditors, they
13 go through the financial statements but somebody has to make
14 sure the auditors are doing a good job and that's where the
15 Oversight Board -- the PCAOB -- comes in.

16 Now, you will learn that after a wave of accounting
17 scandals, Congress created the Oversight Board to make sure
18 auditors were doing a good job. They, essentially, audit the
19 auditors. They watch the watchmen. So, as part of its
20 mission, each year the Oversight Board inspects each of the big
21 accounting firms like KPMG and, as part of that process, they
22 inspect individual audits that the firm performs.

23 So, as an example, if KPMG audited the financial
24 statements of IBM and the Oversight Board wanted to inspect
25 that audit, after the audit was complete and after all of the

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1 documentation was complete, the Oversight Board would go to
2 KPMG, they would ask to see the work on the audit, and they
3 would go through it to make sure that KPMG did a thorough and
4 high quality audit, to make sure the auditors used good
5 judgment and acted with integrity.

6 Now, you will learn that firms like KPMG audit the
7 financial statements of hundreds of companies a year so
8 naturally the Oversight Board can't go through each and every
9 one. Instead, they pick a sample of audits each year to
10 inspect and for a firm like KPMG it is about 50. After the
11 Oversight Board does inspections, they give grades to the firms
12 like KPMG. Now, the list of that sample of audits they're
13 going to inspect, that is a valuable and important secret.
14 Because the Oversight Board only looks at a sample of audits
15 they don't tell the firms until just before the inspections
16 which audits they're going to inspect because if they did that,
17 the firms would just put more resources on those audits, they
18 would put more people on those audits, they would devote more
19 time to those audits and then the Oversight Board wouldn't get
20 a true view into overall audit quality at the firm.

21 So, think of it like a restaurant inspection by the
22 health department. The element of surprise is important so
23 that the health inspectors get a true view of a restaurant's
24 food safety practices -- how clean the restaurant is, how fresh
25 the food is. If a dirty restaurant knew when the health

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1 department was coming, it would just make sure it was perfectly
2 clean that day, just like that; the bathroom would be spotless.

3 So, think about it. You feel comfortable eating at a
4 restaurant with an A rating because you know it is clean on any
5 given day, not just on the day when it hurried to clean up
6 because it had inside information that health inspectors were
7 coming.

8 Now likewise, the Oversight Board doesn't tell the
9 firms which audits they are going to inspect until just before
10 the inspections so they administer these inspections kind of
11 like pop quizzes. Only after the audit is over and after all
12 the audit documentation is complete do they tell the firm what
13 audits they are going to inspect. That way the firm can't make
14 any changes to the audit procedures or to the work papers and
15 the Oversight Board gets a true view into overall audit quality
16 of the firm.

17 Now, after the oversight board does the inspections,
18 you will learn they issue a report detailing their findings and
19 that's where the United States Securities and Exchange
20 Commission -- the SEC -- comes in.

21 Now, you will learn the SEC is an important government
22 agency and it is responsible for making sure the public has
23 access to reliable financial information on publicly traded
24 companies. Now, because auditors are those watch dogs that go
25 through the financial statements, the SEC also has the ability

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1 to monitor auditors. So, you will learn they can implement
2 rules and regulations to make sure audit quality is top notch.
3 They also have the ability to institute enforcement actions and
4 to level fines and penalties against auditors that aren't doing
5 a good job.

6 Now, those inspection reports from the Oversight
7 Board, you will learn that each of those reports goes to the
8 SEC and the SEC relies on those reports to do its job of
9 regulating auditors and protecting the public.

10 Now, with that background, I am going to return to the
11 cheating scheme.

12 You will learn that in the years leading up to the
13 scheme, KPMG was doing poorly on Oversight Board inspections.
14 The Board had found deficiency after deficiency in the quality
15 of KPMG's audits, particularly in certain audits involving
16 banks. So, Middendorf and the other executives, they were
17 desperate to improve. So, what did they do? Well, they did
18 try to do better audit work. They did. But they didn't stop
19 there. They wanted an edge, a secret edge, an end run around
20 the regulatory system that Congress put in place in the wake of
21 past accounting scandals and in looking for that edge they
22 crossed a line, a criminal line. They engaged in a scheme to
23 steal confidential information and to use it to cheat.

24 So, how did the scheme begin? Well, you will learn
25 that in 2015, Middendorf and other executives at KPMG began

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1 recruiting individuals from the Oversight Board to come work at
2 KPMG. Now, one of those individuals were a man named Brian
3 Sweet. When Sweet was at the oversight board he worked on KPMG
4 inspections so they thought he could help turn inspection
5 results around.

6 Now, you will learn that before he left the Oversight
7 Board he took that secret inspection list, the list of
8 inspection targets, and he saved it to a personal hard drive.
9 He then walked out the door with it. Now, when he got to KPMG,
10 Middendorf and the other executives started pumping him for
11 confidential inside board information so he gave them the
12 secret inspection list. Now, at that point the audits were
13 over but the inspections had not been publicly announced so
14 they had more time to prepare for the inspections, they knew
15 the pop quiz was coming. And, the information Sweet provided
16 even told them what the Oversight Board would focus on during
17 the inspections.

18 So, they had their first taste of that illegal edge.
19 Middendorf was happy and they wanted Sweet to keep the
20 information flowing.

21 Now, in 2016 it was even more important that they get
22 that information. You will learn that that year members of the
23 SEC confronted KPMG leadership, including David Middendorf at a
24 meeting, about inspection results. They said inspection
25 results had to get better, things had to change. So, the

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1 pressure was on. Now, that year the information was leaked by
2 Jeffrey Wada. You will learn he was the one who leaked it and
3 he leaked it to Sweet's associate. So, why did he do it? He
4 was disgruntled. He was unhappy that he had not been promoted
5 at the Oversight Board and he was hoping to eventually come
6 work at KPMG just like Brian Sweet. So, he betrayed his duty
7 of trust and confidentiality to the Oversight Board because the
8 information he supplied, it wasn't his to take. So, that year
9 he was the first link in the chain of corruption. He gave it
10 to Sweet's associate who passed it on to Sweet, and Sweet
11 passed it on to his bosses David Middendorf, and a man named
12 Thomas Whittle, who was head of inspections at KPMG. Once
13 again, they ate it up.

14 This year they had gotten the lists even earlier so
15 there were even more things they could do to exploit it. You
16 will learn that when they got the list the audits were complete
17 but the audits were in a brief window after the completion of
18 the audits where they had time to document and explain their
19 work. Now, that documentation is called the audit file or the
20 work papers. It's the core work the Oversight Board
21 scrutinizes during these inspections. It matters a lot.

22 So, Middendorf, Sweet, and the others, they came up
23 with a criminal plan, a way to use that inspection list
24 secretly. They came up with an illicit program to take a
25 second pass at the audit documentation to improve it, to make

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1 it better, all so they would do better on those Oversight Board
2 inspections. And they didn't want anybody else at KPMG to know
3 about it because if other people found out, it could blow up
4 the whole cheating scheme so they disguised this review by
5 making it seem like it was part of a program already in place
6 at the firm. It was a stealth review made to seem legitimate
7 to outsiders.

8 So Sweet and all the others, they went into the
9 documentation and they made as many changes as they could
10 without getting caught. And that year, the cheating worked.
11 You will learn that KPMG did vastly better on certain parts of
12 the inspections than it had in years past.

13 So, what happened in 2017? You will learn Wada leaked
14 the information again, again to Sweet's associate. That year
15 he called the secret inspection targets his "grocery list."
16 That was his code name he used. He was, again, the first link
17 in the chain that year and it was, again, passed all the way up
18 to Middendorf, and you will learn Middendorf was closely
19 tracking that information. He wrote it down in the notes
20 function of his cell phone.

21 But that year Brian Sweet, he made a mistake. He
22 didn't just share the information with his co-conspirators, he
23 also told a KPMG employee whose audit was on the list to be
24 inspected. She knew she wasn't supposed to have the
25 information, she knew it was wrong, so she reported it to her

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1 boss and then the scheme began to unravel. You will learn that
2 KPMG ultimately came clean to the Oversight Board and to the
3 SEC and it was over, they had all gotten caught.

4 Now, for their involvement in the scheme, the
5 defendants have been charged with serious crimes. They have
6 been charged with conspiring to defraud the Oversight Board and
7 actually committing that fraud, basically stealing confidential
8 information. And they've been charged with conspiring to
9 defraud the SEC by interfering with functions it performs in
10 order to protect, in order to fulfill its mission of protecting
11 the investing public. You see, as part of making sure that the
12 public has access to reliable financial information on publicly
13 traded companies they regulate auditors, the watchdogs, to make
14 sure they're doing a good job, and they rely on those
15 inspection reports to do that.

16 Now, the defendant's scheme, it was designed to
17 falsely inflate audit quality in the inspection reports making
18 them unreliable to the SEC and you will learn that interfered
19 with its job to regulate auditors and protect the public.

20 Now, how are we going to prove this to you? First you
21 are going to see and hear the defendants' own words. You will
22 see e-mails and text messages. You will hear voice mails where
23 Jeffrey Wada lists the inspection targets where he called it
24 his grocery list. You will see a text message with the same
25 language. You will see e-mails where Middendorf and others

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1 received the 2015 inspection list. You will see discussions
2 about how sensitive the information is, how they need to be
3 discreet about it. And those e-mails, they will make clear
4 that there was nothing legitimate about what they were doing.
5 They knew the list was secret, they knew they were not supposed
6 to have it, and they knew they were not allowed to use it.

7 Now, you will also see call records showing this
8 corrupt scheme in action.

9 (Continued on next page)

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Opening - Ms. Estes

1 MS. ESTES: You will see the calls where the
2 information was shared and where they schemed about how to use
3 it. You'll see the calls from Wada to Sweet's associate.
4 You'll see the calls from Sweet to Whittle and Middendorf.

5 And you'll also see those lists, the secret, highly
6 confidential lists. You will see the list Middendorf received
7 in 2015. You will hear about the list he received in 2017, and
8 you will see a copy of the list that Brian Sweet had in 2017
9 that he ultimately burned in his barbecue.

10 Now, that's right. When the scheme started to
11 unravel, he didn't just hide the list. He didn't throw it
12 away. He burned it in his barbecue to cover up the crime.

13 Now you're also going to hear from witnesses. You
14 will hear from a witness from the oversight board. She will
15 tell you how valuable the inspection list is and how critical
16 it is that the auditing firms don't know ahead of time which
17 audits are going to be inspected.

18 You'll hear from a witness from the SEC. He will tell
19 you how the SEC relies on the reports to do its job of
20 regulating auditors and protecting the public.

21 You'll hear from the whistleblowers, the ones at KPMG
22 who reported the illicit scheme. And you will hear from two
23 members of the criminal scheme, Brian Sweet and Tom Whittle.

24 Now, they will take you inside the conspiracy as only
25 an insider can. They will tell you how it works, how they hid

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Ms. Estes

1 it from others. They know all the details because they were
2 part of it.

3 Now, Brian Sweet was the one who worked at the
4 oversight board and then came to work at KPMG. He'll tell you
5 how he took the list in 2015, he'll tell you how Middendorf
6 pumped him for confidential information, and he'll tell you how
7 Jeffrey Wada was the one who leaked the list in 2016 and 2017.

8 Now, Tom Whittle -- he was the head of inspections at
9 KPMG. He'll tell you how he, Middendorf, and Sweet put more
10 resources in the audits they knew were on the list because they
11 knew those would be inspected.

12 Now, ladies and gentlemen, make no mistake. Tom
13 Whittle and Brian Sweet committed serious crimes. They've
14 accepted responsibility and pled guilty. Now, you'll learn
15 they're not testifying out of the goodness of their hearts but
16 in the hopes of receiving a reduced sentence.

17 So when you consider their testimony, look at it
18 closely and carefully. Ask yourself whether it makes sense and
19 whether it's backed up by the other evidence -- the emails, the
20 text messages, the voicemails, the call records.

21 Now, at the end of this trial, you will have seen
22 overwhelming evidence of the defendants' guilt. But between
23 now and then, I'd like to ask you to do three things: First,
24 pay close attention to the evidence; second, follow
25 Judge Oetken's instructions on the law; and third, use your

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 common sense, the same common sense you've used in your
2 everyday lives as New Yorkers.

3 If you do those three things, the defendants will get
4 a fair trial, the government will get a fair trial, and we are
5 confident you will return the only verdict consistent with the
6 evidence, that the defendants are guilty as charged.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 We'll now have the opening statement on behalf of
9 Mr. Middendorf.

10 Mr. Boxer.

11 MR. BOXER: Thank you, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: You can pull the mike closer if you'd
13 like.

14 MR. BOXER: May it please the Court, counsel, members
15 of the jury.

16 Mr. Middendorf worked for 30 years at KPMG, his entire
17 professional career. Most of that time he worked in the field
18 in Dallas, in Cincinnati, in Atlanta. And he was eventually in
19 charge of audits for some of KPMG's most prestigious clients --
20 JC Penney, Macy's and Home Depot.

21 He was an auditor well-respected by his clients and by
22 his colleagues. He even served on KPMG's board of directors
23 for five years. And in 2014, he was promoted to be the
24 national managing partner for New York of audit quality and
25 professional practice.

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 After that, he commuted to New York from his home in
2 Atlanta where he lives with his wife and his three teenaged
3 daughters. As the national managing partner, he helped put in
4 place many initiatives at KPMG to improve audit quality with
5 technical terms like accelerating audit execution, heightened
6 root cause analysis, and pre-inspection reviews. In short,
7 Mr. Middendorf spent his entire career committed to the
8 profession of public accounting and to KPMG.

9 So how did he end up here. Not because Mr. Middendorf
10 received any money or any financial benefit, not because he
11 backdated or falsified any audit work papers, not because he
12 did something because he was worried that KPMG might lose a
13 client, and not because he traded on any inside information in
14 the securities market or anything like that.

15 We're here because the government alleges that what
16 you may think was poor judgment or a bad decision or a mistake
17 was a federal crime. Cheating is not a federal crime.
18 Mr. Middendorf did not have an intent to commit the crime
19 charged here which is fraud, period. And because of that, the
20 government will not be able to prove Mr. Middendorf's guilt
21 beyond a reasonable doubt.

22 As you heard, the government's case focuses on three
23 events: First, in May 2015, Mr. Middendorf received by email a
24 list of KPMG audits that the PCAOB was going to inspect later
25 that year. He did not respond to the email, he did not forward

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 the email, and he did not do anything with respect to the list
2 attached to the email.

3 Second, in March 2016, Mr. Middendorf authorized
4 assigning additional people to review the work papers of 11
5 audits that Mr. Sweet said the PCAOB was going to inspect later
6 that year or would likely inspect.

7 Why did he permit that? Why did Mr. Middendorf do
8 that? Because he didn't see any harm to the PCAOB or
9 otherwise; because the audit work was completed, KPMG's audit
10 opinions had been issued, and all that could be done under the
11 rules was to clean up the work papers to better explain what
12 the auditors did and to help show the work that had already
13 occurred.

14 It's like a restaurant, to use the government's
15 example, keeping their ordinary practice and earning their
16 grade and then the inspector comes and says, where is the
17 paperwork for what you did, who you employed, how often they
18 worked.

19 He permitted this to happen because it was just about
20 the paperwork. And make no mistake. You'll see it in their
21 own documents. The PCAOB's view was that it did not give
22 inspection comments. It did not give failing grades because of
23 poor documentation. That's why he did it.

24 And third, in February 2017, when Mr. Sweet said he
25 had all of the audits that the PCAOB was going to inspect later

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 that year, Mr. Middendorf reacted differently because at that
2 time, the audits were still open. The opinions had not yet
3 been issued. So Mr. Middendorf instructed that no additional
4 work or resources be added or be done until he conferred with
5 his boss which he did.

6 When he learned from one of his direct reports that
7 Mr. Sweet had already been reaching out to engagement partners
8 whose audits were on the list, he was furious. And he
9 instructed Mr. Sweet to stop.

10 A week later, Mr. Middendorf and his boss, Scott
11 Marcello, reported what occurred to the head of compliance.
12 And right after that, KPMG began an investigation.

13 Mr. Middendorf first spoke with an inside lawyer for
14 KPMG and then, on three additional occasions, spoke with their
15 outside lawyers. He shared the important details of what I
16 just told you about and even acknowledged that in 2016, if he
17 could, he would have done it differently. He didn't sound like
18 someone who had gotten caught committing a crime or thought
19 they committed a crime.

20 Those are the three events, and you heard about it
21 from me, and you heard about it from the government. What this
22 trial and what this case is all about is perspective. You must
23 consider the evidence and the lack of evidence and judge
24 Mr. Middendorf's intent. That's your role. To do that, to
25 judge his intent, you need perspective.

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 You will hear a lot of testimony and see a lot of
2 documents about what occurred on just a few days in 2015, 2016,
3 and 2017. To fairly judge Mr. Middendorf's intent, you must
4 zoom your perspective out from those three short periods of
5 time to make sure you examine all of the facts and
6 circumstances that informed Mr. Middendorf's intent.

7 What do I mean by that. Let me give you a few
8 examples. Take notice of all of Mr. Middendorf's duties and
9 responsibilities. After he became the managing partner for
10 audit quality professional practice in New York, he had almost
11 200 people reporting to him. Inspections were certainly a very
12 important area to Mr. Middendorf, but they were not the only
13 area that he worked on and the only thing that was important to
14 him.

15 Also -- and this is of critical importance. Consider
16 Mr. Middendorf's experience with the PCAOB and KPMG's
17 relationship with the PCAOB. I say this is critical because it
18 informs Mr. Middendorf's intent and actions.

19 You will hear during the trial that KPMG had an uneasy
20 relationship with the PCAOB. Some of that was natural, tension
21 between a regulator and the regulated entity. But some of it
22 was specific to KPMG.

23 KPMG, for example, disagreed with some of the PCAOB
24 comments in their inspections. And when they challenged too
25 many, they were lectured by the PCAOB that they complained too

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 much.

2 When he became national managing partner,
3 Mr. Middendorf wanted to improve KPMG's relationship with the
4 PCAOB. So unlike his predecessor, he attended the monthly
5 meetings KPMG had with senior officials at the PCAOB.

6 And at these meetings, Mr. Middendorf and others from
7 KPMG laid out the work it was doing to improve audit quality,
8 all the initiatives and all the people and all the money KPMG
9 was devoting to improve audit quality. And at these meetings,
10 the PCAOB often complained about how this was not enough.

11 KPMG tried to show the PCAOB that it was doing its
12 best to improve audit quality, but sometimes it seemed like the
13 PCAOB only focused on the shortcomings and did not give KPMG
14 credit for what it was trying to do.

15 In fact, you will learn during the trial that even one
16 of the PCAOB board members felt that the PCAOB too often played
17 a game of gotcha instead of acting to improve audit quality,
18 the PCAOB's stated mission. All of this is perspective we ask
19 you to bring to your assessment of Mr. Middendorf's intent.

20 Also consider the big picture with regard to the SEC.
21 You'll learn during the trial that Mr. Middendorf spoke with
22 the SEC about auditing issues that applied generally, not about
23 specific comments and particular inspection reports.

24 For example, he met with the PCAOB about a technical
25 accounting issue, about how much money banks needed to set

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 aside as a reserve or an allowance in case loans were not paid
2 back.

3 The SEC was mostly focused on the companies which
4 you'll hear are called the issuers who were KPMG's clients.
5 And as far as Mr. Middendorf's intent, which is where your
6 focus needs to be, he had no reason to think for example, in
7 2016, that a review of the papers in the file after the audits
8 were over and after the audit opinions were issued would
9 somehow impede or defeat a function of the SEC.

10 When you consider what Mr. Middendorf did and did not
11 do on the few days at issue and when you take the time to look
12 at the full perspective, you will conclude that the government
13 has not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Middendorf
14 intended to defraud the SEC or the PCAOB.

15 Let me take a brief moment to introduce
16 Mr. Middendorf.

17 Dave, please stand.

18 And seated with us at counsel table are Alex Clark,
19 Amy Lester, and Greg Bruch. And I know I speak for each of
20 them when I tell you it is our privilege to represent
21 Mr. Middendorf.

22 During the trial, I encourage you to pay attention to
23 not just what is said but also who says it. Take Brian Sweet,
24 for example. He comes to KPMG highly regarded. You'll see he
25 knows the auditing rules inside and out.

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Boxer

1 But it turns out there is another side to Mr. Sweet
2 which Mr. Middendorf and KPMG were unaware of at the time he
3 was hired. He self-promotes his importance; he makes
4 inspection predictions and receives lists of inspections that
5 nobody asks him for, including Mr. Middendorf; and he lies. He
6 lies big time.

7 You'll see in the emails it is Mr. Sweet who's doing
8 the pumping, not Mr. Middendorf, promoting the access he has,
9 the information he has, the lunches he went to, and the inside
10 information he has. It was not Mr. Middendorf asking him to do
11 that.

12 Is Brian Sweet someone you can rely on to find beyond
13 a reasonable doubt that Mr. Middendorf committed fraud? I
14 think you will conclude that you cannot.

15 Also think carefully about the witnesses from the
16 PCAOB. I'm not suggesting that they will lie. I certainly
17 expect that they will not. But there is no getting around the
18 fact that this case has put a spotlight on the PCAOB and its
19 employees. You should be on the lookout as to whether any
20 witness displays a bias or exaggerates in a way that's unfair
21 to Mr. Middendorf.

22 We ask only that you give Mr. Middendorf a fair
23 hearing, fair consideration. And we are confident that you
24 will. And after a fair assessment of all of the facts,
25 including the full picture of Mr. Middendorf's relationships at

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 KPMG and his experiences with the SEC and the PCAOB, we are
2 confident that you will conclude that he is not guilty of the
3 crimes with which he's been charged. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, you will now hear the opening
6 statement on behalf of Mr. Wada.

7 Mr. Cook.

8 MR. COOK: Almost exactly two years ago, the PCAOB had
9 a problem. One of the largest, most well-respected accounting
10 firms in the world, one of the so-called "Big 4," KPMG was
11 receiving confidential information from not just one source but
12 from several sources, former and current PCAOB employees.

13 And among the information that those current and
14 former PCAOB employees conveyed to KPMG was the 2016 and 2017
15 inspection lists that you've heard about, information that KPMG
16 should not have had.

17 The problem for the PCAOB though -- and it would
18 become a problem for the government shortly afterwards -- was
19 that there was so much information flowing from within PCAOB
20 into KPMG from so many different sources.

21 And it wasn't just the sources. KPMG was actively
22 recruiting PCAOB employees from their inspection division,
23 offering them massive salary increases if they would quit their
24 jobs and join KPMG.

25 Of course, when people do that, they bring with them

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 the information in their head, the information that they learn,
2 sometimes from years of work at the PCAOB. But in some cases,
3 as you'll hear, and not just in the case of Brian Sweet, they
4 download PCAOB information on personal hard drives, they carry
5 it with them out the door, and then brought it with them to
6 KPMG.

7 You may have heard the term "revolving door" applied
8 to people who leave work for a regulator or government agency
9 and go into private practice to make more money. Sometimes
10 they go back again and get more experience, and then they go
11 back again to private practice to make more money. It happens
12 all the time. It's not uncommon.

13 These people -- when they do that, they develop
14 relationships. They become friends with the people that they
15 are working with. They go to lunches. They go to conferences
16 together. They get to know each other. They work together.

17 Sometimes when they get together, they talk shop.
18 They talk about their jobs. In some cases, they talk too much.
19 Brian Sweet is an example of that. Brian Sweet took it to a
20 whole other level.

21 Brian Sweet vacuumed up every last bit of confidential
22 PCAOB information he could get, whether he downloaded it to a
23 personal hard drive, whether he brought it with him in his head,
24 or whether he recruited sources among current and former PCAOB
25 employees, he looked for every opportunity to collect

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 information, and then he would dole it out to KPMG in order to
2 advance his own career. You will see that evidence in this
3 trial.

4 For example, KPMG, as part of their efforts to better
5 prepare for PCAOB inspections, hired a data analytics firm
6 called Palantir Technologies. That company takes vast
7 quantities of data, processes it, and spits out predictions
8 used by firms like the CIA and the FBI to process huge amounts
9 of information.

10 KPMG hired them to try and predict who the PCAOB was
11 going to inspect, but it doesn't work if you don't feed raw
12 information into the machine. So who better to do that than
13 Brian Sweet.

14 Mr. Sweet was more than happy to sit down with the
15 representatives of Palantir and provide a complete data
16 download of everything he knew about how the PCAOB selects
17 their inspection targets.

18 So the evidence, ladies and gentlemen, will show that
19 Brian Sweet was willing to give it all up, and not just that.
20 He got other people to do the same thing, other people
21 including a woman named Cynthia Holder who you will hear much
22 about during the trial.

23 As I said, the problem that the PCAOB had was not just
24 that there was one leak but there were many leaks. When I
25 mentioned this would become a problem for the government, this

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 is how.

2 When the government became aware of the leaking and
3 when they decided to focus on a particular form of confidential
4 information to prosecute, they had to figure out who the source
5 was of that particular piece of information from amongst all
6 the sources that were leaking data.

7 So here's where the evidence is going to get
8 interesting because the government has chosen, identified, Jeff
9 Wada as the source of the confidential information that they've
10 chosen to focus on, the 2016 and 2017 inspections.

11 So they have to prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt
12 that from amongst all the sources of confidential information
13 leaking out of the PCAOB, that Jeff Wada was the source of that
14 information. So how are they going to do that.

15 You got a little bit of a preview. They're going to
16 show you text messages, emails, a couple of voicemail messages,
17 and they're going to show you a lot of phone records. The
18 problem with all of that evidence -- and I urge you to pay
19 close attention to it -- is you will not find a single
20 reference to the 2016 or 2017 inspections, not one.

21 It's a huge hole in their case; right? They've got to
22 show that Mr. Wada was the source of this information. They
23 have all these records, but there is no context for them
24 because there is no recordings of these phone calls. The text
25 messages and the emails don't say anything about confidential

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 information. So how are they going to fill that hole.

2 In a couple of days, you're going to hear how they're
3 going to attempt to do that, and that's going to be with the
4 testimony of Brian Sweet. So Brian Sweet is essentially going
5 to tell you that Cynthia Holder told him that Jeff Wada told
6 her the names on these inspection lists.

7 The government is going to use Brian Sweet as a
8 narrator to a silent movie, silent because what he's attempting
9 to narrate are records that don't contain any information about
10 conversations that he was never a party to.

11 But they're going to use him to try and sew them all
12 together to try to create a link to Mr. Wada. So you're going
13 to see in Mr. Sweet's testimony an attempt to fill this gap in
14 their case.

15 Here's what else you're going to hear about Mr. Sweet,
16 and I'll make a prediction. You're going to hear it from the
17 government themselves. I won't even have to ask Mr. Sweet
18 about anything of this.

19 You'll hear about his fondness for lying. He loves to
20 lie. It's not going to be an issue. He'll admit it. He lies
21 to his coworkers. He lies to his former employers. He lied to
22 the KPMG lawyers that he met with about this case.

23 He lied to the federal agents investigating this case,
24 and he lied to these prosecutors, all of them, repeatedly, over
25 and over again. And they believed him. You're going to hear

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Opening - Mr. Cook

1 about all of that.

2 You're also going to hear about Brian Sweet's crimes.
3 When I say "crimes," I'm not just talking about the crimes that
4 he was required to plead guilty to as part of the deal the
5 government gave him. You're going to hear that as part of that
6 deal, he had to confess to some of his other crimes, other
7 felonies. You're going to hear about those.

8 Then you're going to hear that after weeks and
9 sometimes months of lying to these prosecutors and the agents
10 responsible for this case, that when he was about to be found
11 out not by the agents but by defense counsel about other
12 felonies he had committed, then he had to fess up to those too.

13 Crime after crime after crime, lie after lie after
14 lie -- you're going to hear about all of that, and I predict
15 much of it will be during the government's own examination of
16 their lead cooperator. If they don't, we'll ask him.

17 As the Judge said, you are the judges of the facts.
18 You determine the credibility of the witnesses. You will
19 decide whether you can rely on Brian Sweet's testimony beyond a
20 reasonable doubt.

21 I'm confident that once you hear the evidence, you
22 hear his testimony, you see all these records in front of you,
23 that you will conclude that the government has failed to meet
24 its burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Jeff Wada
25 was the source of that confidential information.

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 Ladies and gentlemen, that is only part of the problem
2 with the government's case. But let me just pause there for a
3 minute. We had a very long day yesterday. I know that we were
4 introduced briefly to you. I want to do that again now.

5 My name is Steve Cook, and together with my
6 colleagues, Justin Weddle, Jason Ohta, and Selbie Jason, we
7 have the privilege of representing Mr. Wada.

8 Mr. Wada was born and raised in California, went to
9 high school outside of Los Angeles, and college at UCLA where
10 he graduated in 1997 with a degree in economics. He went on to
11 work for a large public accounting firm, not KPMG, where he
12 became a certified public accountant working here in New York
13 and also in Los Angeles. He joined the PCAOB in February 2005.
14 And in 2012, he was promoted to the position of inspections
15 leader.

16 Mr. Wada is married to Marion Wada. You may see her
17 name in some of the phone records today. Marion and Jeff have
18 two young children. I want to tell you a little bit about his
19 personality. I'm doing it not to embarrass him, but you'll get
20 a flavor of that during this trial.

21 Jeff can be a bit rough around the edges. He's very
22 vocal in his opinion, and he can use colorful and sometimes
23 crude language when he's talking to people he considers his
24 friends. You may see some of that in his emails and text
25 messages.

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 You'll also hear that he was quite vocal about him
2 being upset that he got passed over for a promotion at the
3 PCAOB, and he expressed that frustration again to his friends
4 in his own uniquely colorful way.

5 Why am I telling you this? I'm telling you this
6 because Mr. Wada's personality is not on trial here. It is not
7 evidence of whether he committed a fraud. But that does lead
8 us to the other problem with the government's case. And before
9 I start this, before I talk about that, I need to make one
10 thing clear.

11 You don't even get to this problem unless you first
12 conclude that Mr. Wada was actually the source of this
13 information. And as I've said before, I submit that the
14 government will not be able to prove that.

15 But for the sake of our conversation, let's just
16 assume a fanciful hypothetical that they were able to prove
17 that Mr. Wada was the source of the 2016 and 2017 inspection
18 lists.

19 A big part of this case -- you heard some of this
20 already -- is about the difference between a wrong, doing
21 something that's wrong, and committing a crime, doing something
22 that might be unethical or even immoral and a crime.

23 And you may be thinking to yourself, what's the
24 difference. There isn't a difference. And in many cases, you
25 would be absolutely right. Many things that are both unethical

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 and immoral and wrong are also crimes, but why are they crimes?
2 They are crimes because Congress, who are our elected
3 representatives, have chosen to criminalize that particular
4 conduct.

5 Now, I'm not saying that doing something wrong or
6 immoral or unethical is okay. I'm not saying it shouldn't even
7 be punished. What I'm saying is this is a federal criminal
8 trial. Mr. Wada is charged with violating federal law. He is
9 not charged with doing something unethical or immoral because
10 that on its own is not a crime.

11 For example, if the government were able to prove that
12 Mr. Wada was the source of these inspection lists, he would
13 have violated the PCAOB's policies and procedures, specifically
14 ethics code number 9.

15 Does that make his conduct criminal? Does that mean
16 that he committed fraud on its own? No. It does not. The
17 government is required to prove more than there was a workplace
18 violation, more than he did something wrong or unethical or
19 immoral.

20 And it is not your job as jurors, as the Court will
21 explain, to decide whether somebody should lose their job, lose
22 their license, be punished in some other way. Your job is to
23 decide whether the government has proven the elements of these
24 crimes beyond a reasonable doubt.

25 So what do they have to prove in order to prove fraud,

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Opening - Mr. Cook

1 because that's what they've charged Mr. Wada with. The
2 government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Jeff Wada
3 had the specific intent in his mind at the time he supposedly
4 gave this information over to defraud the Securities and
5 Exchange Commission and to defraud the PCAOB.

6 They have to prove what his intent was, what he meant
7 when he did it. And I urge you to pay close attention to the
8 evidence. I submit you will not see a shred of evidence that
9 Mr. Wada gave even a passing thought to the SEC, much less that
10 he joined a conspiracy to deliver confidential information with
11 the specific intent in his mind to defraud that agency. I
12 submit you will see no evidence of that. But look for it.

13 Similarly, you will see no evidence that anything
14 Mr. Wada did, that when he did it, he had the specific intent
15 to defraud the PCAOB. Look for that. I submit you will not be
16 able to find it. And in a fraud case like this, that, ladies
17 and gentlemen, is what reasonable doubt looks like.

18 A couple of comments concerning the two conspiracy
19 charges, conspiracy to defraud the SEC and conspiracy to
20 defraud the PCAOB. Look for any evidence, any evidence at all,
21 that Mr. Wada joined a conspiracy with a group of conspirators
22 that include people that he's never met and never had any
23 communication with in order to engage, embark upon, a fraud of
24 the SEC. Look for that. I submit you will not find it.

25 Look for any evidence that Jeff Wada joined a group of

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 mostly strangers with the specific intent to commit a felony to
2 defraud the PCAOB because that's what they've charged. I
3 submit you will not find any evidence of that.

4 Just a couple of final thoughts before we get started
5 with this trial. You've already heard the phrase "presumption
6 of innocence" many times. You've heard the phrase "beyond a
7 reasonable doubt" many times already. Every day of this trial,
8 Jeff Wada, as he sits here now -- he is an innocent man. Every
9 single day that he comes and you see him in this courtroom, he
10 remains an innocent man.

11 When the parties rest their case and they begin their
12 closing arguments, he will and must in your mind remain an
13 innocent man because that's what the law requires.

14 And he remains an innocent man up until the time you
15 enter your deliberations. And only then can you and should you
16 begin your deliberations and begin your evaluation of the
17 government's evidence. But up until that point, he must remain
18 in your mind an innocent man.

19 And I know that that is not a way we're used to
20 thinking about things. We go about our daily lives. We make
21 decisions every day. We interact with people on the street.
22 We make judgments.

23 We don't use a reasonable standard, and we don't
24 always presume people to be innocent until they're proven
25 otherwise to us. It's just not part of the way we function.

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 But this is a criminal prosecution in federal court.
2 This is not ordinary life. This is different. So you have to
3 adjust your mindset to this reality. And the reality requires
4 us, the law -- the Constitution requires us to presume that
5 he's innocent until they meet their burden beyond a reasonable
6 doubt. There will be a time for judgment, but that time is not
7 until the end of this case.

8 On behalf of Mr. Wada, I want to thank you for your
9 service. We all know jury service isn't easy. We know you
10 have busy lives, jobs, families. We heard a lot about it
11 yesterday. We recognize the sacrifice that you're making.

12 Please remember that your service on this jury will be
13 one of the most important things you will ever do. Certainly
14 for Mr. Wada, these are the most important weeks of his life.
15 So we thank you for your willingness to serve and for your
16 careful and impartial consideration of the case.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 Ladies and gentlemen, you've now heard the opening
19 statements of the lawyers on behalf of each of the parties. I
20 want to say a couple things about going forward. We'll now
21 begin the evidence in the case consisting of witnesses and
22 documents that will be received in evidence.

23 We've handed out notebooks for you, and I want to say
24 a couple things about the notebooks. Those are for yourselves.
25 Each juror may choose to take notes. Some people find it

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 helpful.

2 You're not required to take notes, and I'm going to
3 ask that you not show your notes to each other or to anyone
4 else. You'll be leaving your notes every day -- if you do take
5 them, you'll be leaving your pads on your chairs. You will not
6 be taking them home or anywhere else.

7 And only when the jury begins deliberating will you be
8 allowed to take any notes you might have taken back to the jury
9 room. After the trial, we'll destroy the notes. You won't be
10 taking them anywhere else.

11 I'm going to ask you not to show them to each other.
12 They're just for your own aid and recollection if you choose to
13 take notes. The fact that one person takes notes does not mean
14 that that person is entitled to any greater consideration than
15 anybody else.

16 Every juror is treated equally in terms of their
17 views. You might not take notes; you might take notes. It's
18 up to you. If you have any difference in your recollection
19 between what happened, it's your recollection that controls,
20 not any particular person's notes, your recollection of the
21 actual testimony.

22 As I'll explain later in the trial, if you do need
23 testimony read back when you are deliberating, I will be able
24 to do that. You'll also have the exhibits that are received in
25 evidence back in the jury room with you. So don't feel like

J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 you have to copy everything down.

2 Before we begin with the first witness, does anybody
3 need a break? Should we take a ten-minute break? Do you all
4 need a bathroom break? Ten minutes?

5 Okay. We'll take a ten-minute break. Then we'll
6 begin with the first witness.

7 (Continued on next page)

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J2CYMIDT2

Opening - Mr. Cook

1 (In open court; jury not present)

2 THE COURT: You may be seated.

3 The government's first witness will be?

4 MS. KRAMER: Wesley Bricker, your Honor.

5 Shall I put him on the stand before the jury comes
6 back in, or would you like him to remain inside the courtroom
7 until the jury is seated?

8 THE COURT: I'm fine with putting him on the stand.
9 Do you have a preference either way?

10 MS. KRAMER: I think I'll put him on the stand so
11 we're not waiting for him to make the long walk from the door.

12 THE COURT: Sounds good.

13 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thanks.

15 (Recess)

16 (Continued on next page)

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen.

3 JUROR: Thank you.

4 THE COURT: We will begin the evidence in the case
5 now.

6 Ms. Kramer, the government may call its first witness.

7 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, your Honor. The government
8 calls Wes Bricker.

9 THE COURT: Sir, would you please stand and raise your
10 right hand? You will be sworn in.

11 WESLEY RAY BRICKER,

12 called as a witness by the Government,

13 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. KRAMER:

16 Q. Good morning, Mr. Bricker.

17 A. Good morning.

18 Q. Where do you work?

19 A. The Securities and Exchange Commission.

20 Q. Is that known as the SEC?

21 A. It is.

22 Q. Throughout your testimony, other than when I indicate to
23 you that I am asking you about a specific point in time, I
24 would like you to answer my questions for the time period 2015
25 through 2017. Okay?

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. What is the SEC?

3 A. The SEC is a regulatory agency.

4 Q. Is it part of the federal government?

5 A. It is.

6 Q. Who runs the SEC?

7 A. The SEC is run by five commissioners with a chair. The
8 chair has administrative responsibilities for the Commission.

9 Q. What is your role at the SEC?

10 A. My role is to serve as the chief accountant for the SEC.

11 Q. In general terms, what are your duties and responsibilities
12 as the chief accountant at the SEC?

13 A. In general terms, my responsibilities are to provide advice
14 and recommendations to the Commission on accounting, audit,
15 other professional practice matters.

16 Q. Do you work in a particular office or division within the
17 SEC?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. Which one?

20 A. It's the office of the chief accountant.

21 Q. Is that known as OCA?

22 A. It is.

23 Q. Approximately how many other people work in OCA?

24 A. Approximately 50 in OCA.

25 Q. Who do you report to at the SEC?

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 A. I report to the Chair of the Commission.

2 Q. For approximately how long have you worked at the SEC?

3 A. I've been at the SEC since 2015, so approximately just over
4 three years.

5 Q. Before working at the SEC, where were you employed?

6 A. Prior to the SEC I was at the accounting firm
7 PricewaterhouseCoopers, or PWC.

8 Q. During approximately which years?

9 A. I was there for two periods. I was there from 2011 until
10 joining the SEC in 2015, and then I was there earlier in my
11 career from 2000 until 2009.

12 Q. And where did you work between 2009 and 2011?

13 A. I worked at the SEC.

14 Q. What was your role at the SEC between 2009 and 2011?

15 A. I was in the Office of the Chief Accountant as well but
16 with the responsibilities of a professional accounting fellow.

17 Q. What does a professional accounting fellow do?

18 A. A professional accounting fellow is someone who focuses on
19 accounting or audit or both. In my case I focused on primarily
20 accounting but included audit matters as well.

21 Q. When you rejoined the SEC in 2015, what was your role?

22 A. I rejoined as the Deputy Chief Accountant with a focus on
23 the accounting issues. So, I was the deputy chief accountant
24 leading the accounting group.

25 Q. When did you become the chief accountant?

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 A. I became the chief accountant in 2016.

2 Q. What is your educational background?

3 A. I am educated as an accountant. I have a bachelors degree
4 in accounting. I am also educated as a lawyer, I have a law
5 degree.

6 Q. Do you have any professional licenses or certifications?

7 A. I do. I am certified as a public accountant, a CPA. I am
8 also a member of the New York Bar.

9 Q. Have you ever practiced law?

10 A. I have not.

11 Q. In what states are you licensed as a certified public
12 accountant or CPA?

13 A. Currently I'm licensed in New Jersey, in Pennsylvania, and
14 in Virginia.

15 Q. In connection with maintaining your CPA license, do you
16 receive ongoing training?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. What kind?

19 A. It is referred to as continuing professional education.

20 Q. Do all registered CPAs have to receive continuing
21 professional education?

22 A. Yes. All licensed CPAs are subject to continuing
23 professional education requirements in order to maintain an
24 active license.

25 Q. In addition to the continuing professional education that

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 you receive, do you also receive training on issues relating to
2 your job?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. What kind of training do you receive?

5 A. I receive training from conferences from the SEC regarding
6 a variety of topics from management topics to market topics and
7 technical topics.

8 Q. Do you also provide training to others?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. What kind of training do you provide?

11 A. I am a speaker at conferences, professional conferences,
12 panels generally on accounting, audit, or markets issues.

13 Q. When was the SEC established?

14 A. The SEC was sustained in 1934.

15 Q. What's your understanding of why it was established?

16 A. It was established as a result of the legislative fixes to
17 the great depression and the market crash within the stock
18 market.

19 Q. Is the SEC divided into divisions and offices?

20 A. It is. It's divided into roughly 20 divisions and offices.

21 Q. I am going to ask you to just move the microphone a little
22 bit closer to you so that your volume doesn't drop off at the
23 end of your sentence.

24 What divisions or offices within the SEC do you
25 interact with most frequently as chief accountant?

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 A. Generally speaking, I most frequently interact with the
2 Division of Corporation Finance, Division of Investment
3 Management, Division of Trading and Markets, Division of
4 Enforcement, as well as offices; Office of Compliance,
5 Inspections and Examinations.

6 Those are just examples.

7 Q. Does the SEC have a mission?

8 A. It does.

9 Q. What is the SEC's mission?

10 A. The SEC's mission is really three parts. The first part is
11 to protect investors who participate in our markets. The
12 second part of the SEC's mission is to foster or promote
13 capital formation, which is the ability of companies to access
14 our markets. And then, the third piece is the fairness or the
15 efficiency within our markets.

16 So, it is all three parts.

17 Q. In simple terms, what is investor protection?

18 A. In very simple terms, investor protection means to the SEC
19 providing or fostering a market where investors receive the
20 information that they need in order to make investment
21 decisions. So, it's the honesty, the accuracy, and the
22 completeness of the information that investors need so they can
23 make decisions that work for them and that fit them best.

24 Q. And, in very simple terms, what does it mean to promote
25 capital formation?

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 A. So that's, in very simple terms, that's a concept of
2 helping companies to be able to get the money that they need in
3 order to grow their businesses, in order to compete, in order
4 to hire workers. So, businesses need money and the term we use
5 for that is capital formation.

6 Q. And lastly, in simple terms, what does it mean to foster
7 fair and efficient markets?

8 A. So, in very simple terms, that's a concept of enabling
9 investors to sell their investments to some other person in a
10 market that is fair and in a market that is efficient.

11 Q. Let's turn to some fundamentals.

12 Generally, what is a public company?

13 A. Generally speaking, a public company is a company that the
14 general public owns at least a portion of.

15 Q. How do members of the general public own a portion of a
16 public company?

17 A. So, members of the public can own a portion of a company by
18 buying a share of a company's stock.

19 Q. Can you give an example of a public company that issues
20 stock?

21 A. An example would be the Coca-Cola Corporation. They've
22 offered investments in their company and individuals can buy
23 those investments, those stock investments.

24 Q. Does the SEC require public companies like Coca-Cola to
25 file anything with the SEC on an annual or yearly basis?

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 A. The SEC does. The SEC requires those companies to file an
2 annual report. An annual report contains information about the
3 company and continues to update investors about that company as
4 they evaluate whether to buy more, continue to hold, or even
5 sell their stock.

6 Q. What is the name for the part of that annual report that
7 reflects a company's financial affairs or financial health?

8 A. So, the portion of the annual report that includes the
9 financial pieces is generally referred to as the financial
10 statements.

11 Q. When a public company files its annual financial statements
12 with the SEC, are those financial statements then available
13 just to the SEC or also to the public?

14 A. Those disclosures and that financial statement is available
15 to everyone. It's also, of course, available to the SEC, so
16 it's the SEC and everyone.

17 Q. How are financial statements for public companies made
18 available to the public? What are the mechanics of that?

19 A. It is made available through the SEC's website, so
20 companies upload their financial statements to the SEC system
21 and then anyone can access those disclosures and those
22 documents through the SEC's website.

23 Q. Do members of the general public have to pay to access
24 financial statements or can they access them for free?

25 A. Free. Entirely free.

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 Q. In broad terms, what kind of information is made available
2 to the public in a company's annual financial statement?

3 A. The kinds of information included in the financial
4 statement would include things like the amount of money that a
5 company owes to other people, as well as what a company owns.
6 So, that's generally referred to as the balance sheet. It
7 gives you a snapshot of, again, what the company owns and what
8 it owes to other people. The financial statements also
9 include, for the period, the amount of sales that that company
10 has made as well as its expenses associated with those sales.
11 So, for example, if it's Coca-Cola, the amount of beverages
12 that it has sold, as well as the cost associated with those
13 beverages.

14 Those are just examples of what's included in the
15 financial statements.

16 Q. Do annual financial statements for public companies contain
17 just objective facts like the number of cans of soda that have
18 been sold? Or do they also contain more subjective
19 information?

20 A. It includes both; some real sort of objective information
21 like the number of cans or amount of cash in the bank account,
22 but it also includes subjective amounts that require estimation
23 and judgment by accountants.

24 Q. So, take, for example, a company that sells cell phones.
25 Can you give an example of the kind of subjective information

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 that would be in that cell phone company's financial
2 statements?

3 A. So, a company that sells cell phones, in this example it
4 would be a company that has cell phones in its inventory and so
5 it would be -- it would need to measure the amount of cell
6 phone inventory it has but it would have to take care to not
7 overstate the value of those phones and so it would need to
8 consider if there is a later or newer model of phone, or if
9 there is a competitor whose phone is selling much better than
10 that company's own phones.

11 And so, that's part of the subjective element, is
12 really thinking about what the value of the phones are to
13 report in the financial statements so that when investors
14 receive that information they have good insight into the value
15 of the phones so that they incorporate that into their
16 investment decision.

17 Q. So, to continue with the example, how does the fact that a
18 competitor has a new model phone affect the decision about how
19 much value to assign to older model cell phones?

20 A. So, in the cell phone example, if a company has older
21 technology and another competitor has newer technology, it
22 might need to reduce or take a writedown on the value of those
23 older phones reflecting the fact that when it sells those, its
24 phones, the older phones, it would have to discount those in
25 order to provide enough incentive for customers to buy the

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Bricker - direct

1 older models.

2 Q. What part of a company's financial statements does the
3 value of those older phones go into?

4 A. So, it goes into the assets of the company, the more
5 technical reference to that statement is the balance sheet and
6 the balance sheet, again, reflects the assets that the company
7 has, as well as the amount that it owes and its equity but it
8 is in the assets section.

9 Q. Let's look at another example in a different industry. Can
10 you give an example of the kind of subjective information that
11 goes into financial statements for a public company that gives
12 people mortgages to buy homes, a company that makes loans?

13 A. Sure.

14 So, a company that makes loans, that might be a bank.
15 So, when a bank makes a loan -- a mortgage loan -- it gives the
16 borrower cash, and in exchange it has a promise that the
17 borrower will repay. The value of the loan that is made is
18 reported by the bank in its balance sheet as an asset because
19 it's counting on the borrower repaying the bank.

20 Q. So, in figuring out how much that loan is worth, how much
21 the bank or the lender expects to get back, can you give some
22 examples of the kinds of things that the bank or the lender
23 would consider in trying to get to that number?

24 A. Yes.

25 So, the bank would need to think about whether the

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 borrower has the ability to repay the loan, and in thinking
2 about that they would, the bank would need to think about
3 whether the borrower has, still has their job or whether
4 they've lost their job. They would also need to think about
5 the value of collateral for the loan. So, for example, if it's
6 a home loan mortgage, the house serves as collateral for the
7 loan and so the bank would need to think about whether the
8 house is still in good condition or, for example, if there has
9 been a natural disaster like flooding or a hurricane or
10 something that has damaged the value of the house.

11 All of those things would go into the ability of the
12 borrower to repay the bank.

13 Q. Is there an accounting term for the amount that the value
14 of that loan has to be reduced in the financial statement to
15 reflect that risk of the lender not getting paid back?

16 A. Yes.

17 So, the terminology that accountants use in that case
18 can be various but the common terminology is the Allowance for
19 Loan Losses or the Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses, and
20 then even that is abbreviated as capital A capital L-L, so ALL,
21 or ALLL. What that represents is the company's estimate or
22 measurement of the amount of money that they expect to loose on
23 their loans.

24 Q. So, just to illustrate, can you give an example of how
25 that, the allowance or the ALL, is reflected in a financial

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 statement if you were just talking about, for example, a
2 \$100,000 loan, a single loan for \$100,000?

3 A. Sure.

4 So, in that case a single loan of \$100,000, what you
5 would see in the financial statements is you would see \$100,000
6 and then let's just say that the bank expected to lose \$10,000
7 on that loan so you would see \$100,000 and then minus \$10,000
8 equals \$90,000. That \$10,000 of reduction would be the amount
9 that the bank doesn't expect will be received on the loan and
10 investors then have access to information regarding the amount
11 of loans that the bank has made, that's the \$100,000, also what
12 the bank doesn't expect to collect on those loans, that's the
13 \$10,000, and then the net amount which is \$90,000. That is
14 sort of the remaining amount and then investors can then have a
15 sense of that information when they make a decision about
16 whether to invest in that company.

17 Q. Now, I just gave you an example using a single loan. Do
18 financial statements generally contain a calculation of the
19 allowance for a single loan or for groups of loans or for
20 something else?

21 A. The financial statements will reflect that sort of core
22 concept for all of the bank's loans so it is a total number.
23 It is all of its loans added up into a single amount and then
24 it's all of the amounts that it doesn't expect to collect added
25 up into a single amount, and then you get, doing the long math,

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 a hundred in our example minus 10 equals 90. But, that's the
2 amount for all of the loans that the bank has made.

3 Q. What is an auditor?

4 A. An auditor is someone who is independent of the company and
5 who audits the financial statements, so in other words someone
6 independent of the company who checks the financial statements.

7 Q. And you say someone who checks the financial statements, we
8 will get into this shortly, but how long does that check
9 typically take for a large public company?

10 A. For the largest of companies that process occurs at the
11 start of the company's year so the checking really never stops
12 and that's important so that the audit process is completed
13 whenever management is required to issue its financial
14 statements. That is to say, the audit occurs -- for large
15 companies the audit occurs throughout the year at the same time
16 as the company is operating its business.

17 Q. Are you familiar with something called an auditor's report?

18 A. I am.

19 Q. What is that?

20 A. An auditor's report is a report that's included with the
21 financial statements so that investors have both the company's
22 financial statements, then they also have the auditor's report
23 and they can see both of those things at the same time.

24 Q. What are the main parts of a standard auditor's report?

25 A. Standard auditor's report really starts with the auditor

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 communicating what they've audited. So, if they've audited a
2 particular year, a particular set of financial statements,
3 that's the first part. And then the second part of the report
4 describes what an audit is so that investors really can
5 understand what the auditor did in the course of the audit.
6 And then the last part is the auditor's opinion about having
7 done the work that they described they had done on the
8 particular financial statements that they've identified, what
9 is their opinion about that.

10 Q. What are the different kinds of opinions an auditor can
11 give on a company's financial statements?

12 A. An auditor really has three approaches. The common one is
13 referred to as an unqualified opinion, and what that means is
14 the auditor has looked at the financial statements, they've
15 done a full scope audit, and then they've reached an opinion
16 that the financial statements are fairly presented according to
17 the rules that applied in preparing those financial statements.
18 So, that's like the clean bill of health for financial
19 statements.

20 The second type of opinion is where there was some
21 reason why the auditor wasn't able to express that opinion.
22 That's referred to as a qualified opinion. That is, the
23 auditor has engaged in the audit and perhaps there was some
24 aspect of the company's records that wasn't available, they
25 couldn't look at, or when they looked at those records, the

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 financial statements weren't prepared properly and so the
2 auditor is communicating a qualification. So, that's not a
3 clean bill of health, that's spotting an issue and then
4 reporting it.

5 And then the last option is referred to as a
6 disclaimer. What that means is the auditor really couldn't do
7 even enough work to have an opinion at all and so it's
8 communicating to investors that they tried to do an audit, they
9 couldn't complete the audit, and so it they can't express, in
10 that case, an opinion.

11 Q. What does the clean bill of health opinion typically say,
12 in short form?

13 A. In short form and sort of simple terms what it says is that
14 we have conducted an audit and expressed the opinion that the
15 financial statements are fairly presented in all material
16 respects in relation to the financial reporting framework that
17 is required to be applied. So, that might be U.S. GAAP, which
18 refers to a financial reporting framework or one of the others.

19 Q. You said GAAP. Is that G-A-A-P?

20 A. It is. It is a technical term for accountants. GAAP,
21 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

22 Q. What are generally accepted accounting principles?

23 A. Generally accepted accounting principles are the rules of
24 the road for accountants.

25 It is generally accepted in the sense that accountants

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 and others have gotten together and they have agreed on how to
2 measure things, how to report things, what are the items that
3 should be in the financial statements, how should they be
4 communicated. So, it is generally accepted in that sense that
5 accountants generally agree on an approach. They're
6 accounting, so it is dealing with accounting, and then the P
7 word, principles, it is written at a principles level because
8 accountants have to set out those rules of the road. But, for
9 every company, they'll have very specific circumstances that
10 they need to deal with. So, it is Generally Accepted
11 Accounting Principles.

12 Q. Are there generally accepted accounting principles that
13 apply to things like calculating that allowance for loan
14 losses, the ALL that you were testifying about a few minutes
15 ago?

16 A. Yes.

17 The topic of how to measure that and how to report
18 that is included within Generally Accepted Accounting
19 Principles as well as sort of related rules and guidance.

20 Q. What is your understanding of why the general public can
21 rely on the accuracy of a public company's financial statements
22 in deciding where to invest?

23 MR. BOXER: Objection. Foundation.

24 MS. KRAMER: Sorry. What was the objection?

25 THE COURT: Foundation.

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 BY MS. KRAMER:

2 Q. Do you have an understanding of whether or not the public
3 can rely on financial statements that are filed with the SEC
4 with auditors' reports and deciding where to invest?

5 A. I do it as part of my job as the chief accountant.

6 Q. What is your understanding of that?

7 MR. BOXER: Objection.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 You can answer.

10 A. My understanding of the foundation for public companies is
11 really grounded in federal law, as well as the accounting
12 principles -- GAAP -- that whole framework for accountants that
13 guide accountants on how to prepare the financial statements
14 sort of on the one hand that's the company's responsibility.
15 They have to prepare their financial statements. And then the
16 other source that provides a foundation for the investing
17 public to have confidence those numbers is the audit process,
18 the independent check on what management and the company has
19 done whenever they've prepared those financial statements.

20 So, those two structural pieces of that information,
21 which is provided to the public, is really the foundation for
22 confidence that the public can have.

23 MR. BOXER: Move to strike, your Honor, and also as
24 non-responsive.

25 MR. WEDDLE: We join in that, your Honor.

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 THE COURT: Overruled.

2 BY MS. KRAMER:

3 Q. Is there a typical time -- withdrawn.

4 Are you familiar with the term Internal Control over
5 Financial Reporting?

6 A. I am.

7 Q. Is that abbreviated as ICFR? To add another abbreviation
8 to the mix.

9 A. It is.

10 Q. What does Internal Control over Financial Reporting, or
11 ICFR mean?

12 A. So, Internal Control over Financial Reporting is a term
13 that accountants use to describe that process that companies go
14 through in preparing their financial reports. So, it's
15 internal, that's referring internal to the company and it's the
16 controls, it's the areas within the company that provide
17 reasonable assurance that the financial reports are prepared in
18 a complete, accurate, and reliable way.

19 Q. Could you give an example of a simple internal control used
20 by a public company?

21 A. A very simple one for large companies, large companies,
22 when they write very large checks sometimes, and a good control
23 for writing large checks, is to make sure that two people have
24 signed that check to validate that it is an authorized
25 disbursement of the company's funds. So, it is not just one

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 person, it is two people sort of vouching for the
2 appropriateness of that disbursement.

3 Q. Is there such a thing as an audit after a company's
4 Internal Control over Financial Reporting, or ICFR?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What companies generally have such audits?

7 A. The largest of companies have those audits. So, it's an
8 audit in those cases, both of the processes, the company's
9 process for preparing its financial statements as well as the
10 financial statements themselves. And in that sense it's an
11 audit that integrates both how the company has prepared its
12 financial statements as well as the outcome of that process,
13 which is the financial statements themselves.

14 Q. And is there a term for an audit of both the financial
15 statements and the company's internal controls over financial
16 reporting?

17 A. Yes. It's referred to as an integrated audit because it is
18 integrating the audit of that process with the results of the
19 process which is the financial statements. It's an audit plan
20 that is integrated and so it's referred to as an integrated
21 audit.

22 Q. In an integrated audit, in addition to the opinion on the
23 financial statements, is there an opinion issued on the
24 Internal Control over Financial Reporting?

25 A. Yes. There are two opinions in that instance.

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 Q. And what are the different types of opinions an auditor can
2 give over a company's internal controls over financial
3 reporting or ICFR?

4 A. Roughly the same construct, which is the auditor could
5 conclude that the internal controls are effective in both their
6 design as well as the way the company has implemented those
7 controls so that would be an unqualified. But, similar to the
8 financial statements, if there is some limitation to the
9 auditor's work, then they would qualify it. They would also
10 qualify it if, in fact, they did the audit and it turned out
11 that the controls weren't properly designed. Or, if the
12 controls really weren't operating effectively, then they would
13 have the opinion that the internal controls are ineffective.
14 If the auditor couldn't complete its work, then the auditor
15 would need to disclaim again.

16 Q. Did you say it would need to disclaim again?

17 A. It would need to disclaim, essentially saying that it tried
18 to do the work but wasn't able to complete it.

19 Q. In the second category of opinions you just talked about
20 where there is something wrong with internal controls, what
21 type of opinion, what language in the opinion is then used?

22 A. So, the type of language within the opinion would be that
23 the auditor has concluded that internal controls are not
24 effective and then they would describe the reason -- reason or
25 reasons that have been identified that results in the internal

J2C5mid3

Bricker - direct

1 controls not being effective.

2 Q. And what does the opinion say if there is just something
3 wrong with the internal controls?

4 A. So, if there is something wrong then that is described as a
5 material weakness in internal controls. That's a technical
6 term but in essence what that is saying is something
7 significant, important to the objective wasn't present or it
8 wasn't operating and so it was material in the sense that it
9 was important and it was a weakness. It was a weakness in that
10 overall system of controls and then the opinion would lay out,
11 much more specifically, what the nature of that circumstance
12 was.

13 Q. So, to use the signing of the check example that you
14 testified about a few minutes ago, what are the ways in which
15 that control, the two people signing the check, can present a
16 material weakness?

17 A. Sure.

18 So, there could be two ways. One way would be if the
19 company really didn't have such a procedure and it really
20 needed to have a procedure where for large disbursements two
21 people needed to sign the check, let's say a company just
22 didn't have that within its procedures manuals, that might be a
23 material weakness that the auditor would identify in the
24 report.

25 A second way that a company could have a material

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Bricker - direct

1 weakness would be let's say its company's procedures required
2 two people to sign the check but that second person didn't show
3 up and didn't sign the check and so the same person signed two
4 times but that same person signed two times. That would
5 essentially be the same person preparing and reviewing the
6 disbursement. So, in that instance, it would be a material
7 weakness as well.

8 Q. Do you have an understanding of why the large public
9 companies are required to have an integrated audit of both
10 financial statements and the internal controls over financial
11 reporting or ICFR?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. What's your understanding about that?

14 A. My understanding is that particularly coming through the
15 early 2000s with sort of a state of corporate misstatements and
16 corporate issues, Congress issued the Sarbanes-Oxley act and
17 included within the Sarbanes-Oxley is act a provision that
18 requires the largest of companies to not only have an effective
19 system of internal control but also to have auditors check that
20 system so that investors have a source of insight and greater
21 confidence regarding the way financial statements are prepared
22 and then issued to the general public.

23 MR. BOXER: Objection. Move to strike everything, at
24 least the first half of the answer, as non-responsive and is
25 narrative.

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Bricker - direct

1 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, it is a relevant response to
2 the question that is relevant to the issues in the trial.

3 THE COURT: The objection is overruled.

4 Next question.

5 BY MS. KRAMER:

6 Q. So, let's talk about a little bit more about the nuts and
7 bolts of audits. So, you testified about a public company's
8 financial statements for the year being audited. When you did
9 that were you talking about the calendar year from January
10 through December? Or something else?

11 A. So, a year for financial reporting could be a calendar year
12 but it wouldn't necessarily need to be. It is generally
13 referring to a 12-month period. Some companies count that
14 12-month period starting January and ending in December. Other
15 companies count that 12-month period starting, for example, in
16 June or starting in July and ending in June.

17 Q. What is the year called that is reflected by that one-year
18 period in financial statements?

19 A. It's referred to as a fiscal year.

20 Q. When must a public company file its financial statements
21 with the SEC when its fiscal year end is December 31st, just
22 the last day of the calendar year?

23 A. For the largest of companies it has 60 days to file its
24 annual report including its financial statements with the SEC.
25 Smaller companies have a little bit more time, for example 75

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Bricker - direct

1 days. So, there is a different time frame, depending on the
2 size of a company. Larger companies have less time, smaller
3 companies have a little bit more time.

4 Q. So, for a large company with a December 31st fiscal year
5 end, when is the financial statement filed?

6 A. Generally by the end of February. So, if the calendar
7 year-end company has ended December 31st, those reports are
8 generally due February 28. Sometimes it is March 1st,
9 sometimes it is a leap year.

10 Q. Did you say sometimes there is a leap year?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Go ahead.

13 A. So, accountants tend to count the 60 days very precisely,
14 but the rough way to come up with that is at the end of
15 February, reports are due.

16 Q. Is there a term for the date on which a public company
17 files its annual financial statements?

18 A. So that's referred to as the filing date.

19 Q. And on that filing date -- withdrawn.

20 When is the auditor's report that contains the opinion
21 or opinions filed with the SEC?

22 A. The audit report would be filed on the same day, it would
23 be included in that annual report.

24 Q. Did you say the audit report would be filed the same day?

25 A. That's correct.

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Bricker - direct

1 Q. So, as an example, just using February 28th as an example,
2 what is your understanding if that is the filing date, of when
3 all the audit procedures have to be completed by the auditor?

4 A. All of the audit procedures would need to be completed by
5 the filing date. So, in other words, all of the audit work
6 needs to be done whenever the audit report is issued and
7 available to the general public.

8 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't hear the last part of that. Is
9 available to the?

10 A. General public.

11 Q. I don't think the microphone is quite long enough for you
12 but maybe you can move it closer. Thank you.

13 Are you familiar with the term "audit file?"

14 A. I am.

15 Q. What is that?

16 A. An audit file refers to, essentially, just the auditor's
17 collection of work, generally referred to as an audit file. It
18 is the body of audit work.

19 Q. What is an audit work paper?

20 A. An audit work paper is an individual piece of work that the
21 auditor has done as part of the audit. It might be a memo, it
22 might be a list of numbers that's been added up or checked for
23 accuracy, but it represents an individual piece of work that
24 the auditor has done.

25 Q. After the financials are filed with the auditor's report,

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Bricker - direct

1 with those opinions on the filing date, relative to that point
2 in time, when do the audit work papers all have to be finished?

3 A. So, all of the audit work papers need to be -- well, all of
4 the work needs to be done when the audit report is issued and
5 then there is a period of time to sort of collect everything
6 together and assemble it into an audit file and that's a 45-day
7 period that auditors have to sort of pull everything together.

8 Q. Is there a name for that 45-day period that people use?

9 A. People generally describe that as the housekeeping period,
10 again referring to that process of collecting all of the memos,
11 collecting all of the individual work papers, putting it all
12 together into an audit file that can be accessible. That audit
13 file might be electronic, it might be hard copy and so it needs
14 to be assembled.

15 Q. Have you heard the term "documentation period?"

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What does that mean?

18 A. Documentation period is another term for that same 45-day
19 period.

20 Q. Where does that 45-day period come from? What authority
21 set the 45-day period?

22 A. The 45-day period comes from a PCAOB standard. The PCAOB
23 is the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board which sets
24 rules and standards including for that topic.

25 Q. We will turn back to that subject in a little bit but

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Bricker - direct

1 focusing on the 45-day documentation period, to be clear, when
2 does that start?

3 A. So, that starts when the audit report has been issued so
4 that was the filing date that we talked about.

5 Q. So, that starts when the financials are files with the
6 auditor's opinions?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. During that 45-day period, is an auditor generally
9 permitted to conduct or perform new audit procedures?

10 A. Generally not, unless the auditor has subsequently
11 discovered some fact that results in a conclusion that the
12 audit report wasn't properly supported when it was filed.

13 Q. And if the auditor reaches that conclusion in those
14 exceptions, are there any requirements about what must happen?

15 A. In that case the auditor would need to specifically
16 identify that circumstance, identify what the circumstance is,
17 what the additional audit work has been, what the corresponding
18 conclusions are relative to that work.

19 Q. And is there any requirement of record keeping in that
20 circumstance?

21 A. There is a documentation requirement. That is that all of
22 that work be identified and documented specifically.

23 Q. Which are the largest firms that audit public companies in
24 the United States?

25 A. The largest audit firms are KPMG, Ernst & Young, Deloitte,

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Bricker - direct

1 and PricewaterhouseCoopers which is abbreviated as PWC.

2 Q. Are those also known as The Big Four?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Does the SEC regulate auditors of public companies like
5 those Big Four accounting firms you just mentioned?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Does the SEC regulate employees of those Big Four
8 accounting firms?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Generally, what is your understanding of where that
11 regulatory authority comes from?

12 A. That, my understanding is that regulatory authority comes
13 from the federal securities laws which have a fairly broad
14 reach and includes the activities of accountants, and then the
15 SEC has done rules to further explain what that means.

16 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, I note that it is two minutes
17 before 1:00. Is this a logical stopping point for lunch?

18 THE COURT: Yes. Why don't we stop for lunch now.

19 Folks, we will break from 1:00 to 2:00 for lunch. I
20 am going to remind you that you are not yet discussing the
21 case.

22 I think Mr. Hampton gave you some information about
23 where you can go and how you can get in and out of the court
24 house for lunch. I would like you to be back five minutes
25 before 2:00 so we can start promptly at 2:00 and continue

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Bricker - direct

1 promptly with the testimony. Please, leave your note pads on
2 your chairs and have a good lunch.

3 We will see you in an hour.

4 (Continued on next page)

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Bricker - direct

1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: You may be seated.

3 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, may the witness be excused?

4 THE COURT: Yes. You may step down.

5 (Witness steps down)

6 THE COURT: Did anybody want to address anything?

7 MR. WEDDLE: Can we address two items very briefly,
8 your Honor?

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 MR. WEDDLE: I am not exactly sure what Mr. Bricker is
11 going to testify about but as your Honor knows from the
12 indictment, Mr. Wada's involvement that is alleged, I think I
13 can say this freely in front of Mr. Bricker, I am comfortable
14 doing that. As alleged, Mr. Wada's involvement comes at a
15 certain point in time. I believe that Mr. Bricker had dealings
16 with other people at KPMG that predate that point in time. So,
17 if he is having, if is he relating conversations, let's say,
18 with Mr. Middendorf, if they're being offered for their truth,
19 they might have a different basis for coming into evidence with
20 respect to Mr. Middendorf and would not be admissible as
21 against Mr. Wada. It may not come up, they may not be offered
22 for their truth, but I don't want to be popping up and
23 interrupting so I wondered if I could alert your Honor to it
24 and at an appropriate time, I don't think it is a
25 question-by-question type of thing, but we could have a

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Bricker - direct

1 limiting instruction at some point that says certain statements
2 by Mr. Middendorf were admitted in evidence, I instruct you
3 that you have to only consider those with respect to
4 Mr. Middendorf and not with respect to Mr. Wada. And, we can
5 craft it to put a year or something on it to satisfy everyone.
6 But, I just didn't want to interrupt the flow.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. WEDDLE: That's the first thing, and Mr. Cook had
9 something else.

10 MR. COOK: Your Honor, we have been attempting to
11 serve Brian Sweet with a subpoena. We have been attempting to
12 serve him since February 7th. It appears to us he is
13 deliberately evading service. For example, we have had folks
14 at his hotel room; he refuses to come down and accept the
15 subpoena. We have served his wife, given a copy to
16 Mr. Morvillo who was here earlier, his lawyer.

17 We would like to avoid the circumstance where we have
18 to serve him on the stand for documents and then request an
19 adjournment for documents. So, we are alerting your Honor to
20 the issue and ask that he be deemed served and we can notify
21 Mr. Morvillo of that. We told him today that we intended to
22 have this conversation and therefore we could get documents in
23 advance and not interrupt the trial.

24 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, I have not been in the middle
25 of these communications but when it was brought to my attention

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Bricker - direct

1 today that it would be raised to your Honor, I had a brief
2 conversation with Mr. Morvillo about it and he is not here so I
3 will relay, in sum, what he said, which was that he has
4 accepted service, he has the subpoena. He has not spoken with
5 his client about it because he is on an airplane and that he
6 will speak with his client --

7 THE COURT: The client is on an airplane?

8 MS. KRAMER: Mr. Sweet is on an airplane and he
9 believes that they will work something out and they will get
10 back to Mr. Cook.

11 I don't know what the conversations were so I can only
12 relay what was relayed to me, but Mr. Sweet is a cooperating
13 witness who has counsel. I don't know that someone asking him
14 to come down from his hotel room to a hotel lobby when he is
15 represented by counsel and refusing to do it, if that's what
16 happened, is properly characterized as evading service. But,
17 this is the first we have heard of this was today and I
18 understand Mr. Morvillo is working it out.

19 So, I think it is at least premature and certainly one
20 of the parties who is necessary for this conversation isn't
21 here to address it. Mr. Sweet will not be taking the stand
22 tomorrow so we have some time, I believe, to address it before
23 he is on the stand. Even if he took the stand this week I
24 don't think that he would get to cross until next week.

25 THE COURT: Okay. So it sounds like -- I believe you

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Bricker - direct

1 represented that Mr. Morvillo understood himself to have
2 accepted service?

3 MS. KRAMER: I don't want to -- I don't actually want
4 to overstate.

5 I understand that he spoke with Mr. Cook. I believe
6 he has a copy of the subpoena and is going to speak with his
7 client about it.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MS. KRAMER: So I don't know what he is authorized to
10 do. I don't -- so, no --

11 MR. COOK: He expressly disclaimed acceptance although
12 he has a copy. None of this would have been an issue but he
13 refused to accept service at the outset of this.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. COOK: If we work this out it will be fine. I
16 just wanted to alert the Court.

17 THE COURT: Okay. I appreciate it. And I assume you
18 will be speaking with him and then you can update me perhaps
19 tomorrow where things stand.

20 MR. COOK: All right.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Have a good lunch.

22 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, your Honor.

23 (Luncheon recess)

24 (Continued on next page)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

2:10 p.m.

THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone.

MS. KRAMER: Good afternoon.

THE COURT: Are we ready for the jury?

MS. KRAMER: Yes, your Honor.

(In open court; jurors present)

THE COURT: Please be seated.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We're continuing with the testimony.

Ms. Kramer, you may proceed.

MS. KRAMER: Yes, your Honor.

Q. Mr. Bricker, what's your understanding about whether at the federal level any entities other than the SEC have authority to regulate the auditors of public companies?

A. At the federal level, the entity, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, has authority to regulate auditors.

Q. Is that known as the PCAOB or the Board?

A. It is.

Q. Approximately when was the PCAOB formed?

A. Approximately in 2003.

Q. How was it formed?

A. It was formed by an act of Congress.

Q. What's the name of that act of Congress?

A. It is the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. Are you familiar with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2003?

2 A. I am.

3 Q. I'd like you to take a look at your screen.

4 And we'll just show the witness, Court, and counsel
5 what's been marked as Government Exhibit 355.

6 Do you recognize this exhibit?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. How do you recognize it?

9 A. I recognize it as a copy of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2003.

10 Q. Is this a public statute?

11 A. It is.

12 Q. Or public act?

13 A. It is.

14 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
15 Government Exhibit 355.

16 THE COURT: Any objection?

17 MR. BOXER: 4no, your Honor.

18 MR. WEDDLE: No, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Government Exhibit 355 is received.

20 (Government's Exhibit 355 received in evidence)

21 BY MS. KRAMER:

22 Q. Let's look at page 1.

23 Mr. Bricker, could you please read the subtitle
24 starting with the words: "An act."

25 A. "An act to protect investors by improving the accuracy and

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Bricker - Direct

1 reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the
2 securities laws and for other purposes."

3 Q. All right. Now, if you could turn to Section 101, which is
4 on page 6.

5 Generally, what does this section provide?

6 A. Generally, Section 101 provides for the establishment of
7 the Board or the PCAOB, as well as some administrative
8 provisions relating to that.

9 MS. KRAMER: Mr. Urbanczyk, could you actually
10 highlight the title that's above the Section 101 heading.

11 Q. So Title 1, what is that called?

12 A. Title 1 is called the Public Company Accounting Oversight
13 Board.

14 Q. Let's turn to Section 101(a) on page 6.

15 What does the first part of this section say about the
16 purpose of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board?

17 A. So it says there it's is established the Public Company
18 Accounting Oversight Board. And then it goes into its purpose,
19 "To oversee the audit of public companies that are subject to
20 the securities laws and related matters in order to protect the
21 interests of the investors and further the public interest in
22 the preparation of the informative, accurate, and independent
23 audit reports for companies, the securities of which are sold
24 to and held to by public investors."

25 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Urbanczyk.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. To be clear, is the PCAOB a government agency or some other
2 kind of entity?

3 A. The PCAOB is some other type of entity. It's a
4 not-for-profit corporation.

5 Q. Did you say it's a not-for-profit corporation?

6 A. That is correct. It operates as a not-for-profit
7 corporation.

8 Q. And what is the composition of the Board?

9 A. The composition of the Board is five individuals referred
10 to as board members, and then the Board has a chair of the
11 Board.

12 Q. So throughout the Sarbanes-Oxley Act -- withdrawn.

13 Let's turn to Section 101(c) starting on page 6.

14 What does Section 101(c) provide generally?

15 A. Generally, 101(c) sets forth the duties of the Board.

16 Q. What are the duties of the Board?

17 A. The duties of the Board, as described in 101(c), is to
18 register public accounting firms, to establish rules generally
19 speaking for how they prepare audit reports.

20 The third part is to conduct inspections of those
21 firms, also to conduct investigations and disciplinary
22 proceedings concerning those firms.

23 Next it's to perform duties or functions that the
24 Board or the Commission determines are necessary or
25 appropriate. Next is to enforce compliance with the

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Bricker - Direct

1 Sarbanes-Oxley Act, as well as the rules of the Board,
2 professional standards, and the securities laws.

3 And then next is to set a budget and to manage the
4 operations, essentially to have the resources needed to
5 accomplish all of those purposes.

6 Q. Take a look at Section 107 on page 21.

7 What does Section 107 provide?

8 A. Section 107 provides for the Commission oversight of the
9 Board. In that context, it's the SEC's oversight of the Board.

10 Q. Okay. So the Commission is the Securities and Exchange
11 Commission, the SEC?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. So who has oversight authority over the PCAOB?

14 A. The SEC does.

15 Q. Who reviews and approves the PCAOB's budget?

16 A. The SEC does.

17 Q. Who approves members of the PCAOB's Board?

18 A. The SEC does.

19 Q. Who approves PCAOB rules?

20 A. The SEC does.

21 Q. Who decides appeals of decisions made by the PCAOB?

22 A. The SEC does.

23 Q. Do you play a role in the SEC's approval of the PCAOB's
24 budget?

25 A. I do.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. What role do you play in that function?

2 A. I play a role of supervising the work, of evaluating the
3 PCAOB's request and the support for their request, and then
4 providing a recommendation to the Commission for final approval
5 or not of the PCAOB's request.

6 Q. And is the PCAOB inspection program a part of the PCAOB's
7 budget?

8 A. It is.

9 Q. Could you give us some examples of the specific things you
10 do to administer the SEC's approval of the PCAOB's budget.

11 A. So examples of things that we do as part of approving the
12 budget, we meet with personnel at the PCAOB, for example, the
13 head of their inspections department, the head of their
14 enforcement department, the head of their standard setting
15 department. We meet with the chair of the PCAOB, other PCAOB
16 board members to understand the kinds of resources that they
17 need in order to fully accomplish the PCAOB's mission.

18 We look at the records that they've prepared
19 supporting their request. We also look at their strategic plan
20 and the direction and how they've allocated their resources
21 among their departments.

22 We also look at the experience of the PCAOB over time.
23 For example, we incorporate the inspection, the inspection
24 results, the inspection reports and our review of that
25 information. We consult with others within the SEC in

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Bricker - Direct

1 ultimately bringing that together into a recommendation to the
2 Commission.

3 Q. In general terms, how much of the PCAOB's budget is
4 typically consumed by the inspection program?

5 A. In general terms, that is their largest program. So that's
6 the majority of their budget.

7 Q. In formulating your recommendation to the Commission
8 concerning the PCAOB's budget, do you rely at all on PCAOB
9 inspection reports?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How?

12 A. We rely on inspection reports to have an understanding of
13 how auditors are performing their work. For example, it's a
14 source of information to assess whether there needs to be more
15 resources for setting new standards.

16 If auditors are not able to follow or comply with the
17 existing standards, perhaps there's a standards issue and you
18 need additional standards or rules. So we gather insight from
19 that.

20 We also gather insight regarding whether the
21 discipline or enforcement function needs more work. So those
22 are just examples of the kinds of insights that we take from
23 inspection reports.

24 Q. Do you play any role in the SEC's approval of PCAOB board
25 members?

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1 A. I do.

2 Q. What role do you play in that process?

3 A. I play a role of administering the search for candidates to
4 be appointed to the PCAOB. And the way we do that is through
5 an open, public announcement of positions.

6 And then I also play a role in reviewing the
7 candidate's materials -- their resumes, their background
8 information. And then my office oversees the process of
9 conducting background checks and so forth and then ultimately
10 administering the process of Commission approval for the
11 selection and appointment of new board members.

12 Q. Do you utilize PCAOB inspection reports in your evaluation
13 of prospective PCAOB board members?

14 A. We do in this way, that if a CPA or someone who has
15 previously conducted audits that were subject to inspection, we
16 would take into account -- and we do take into account -- their
17 performance as an auditor; that is, if the inspection found
18 sort of issues with that individual's work, then we would take
19 that into account, and we do take that into account.

20 Q. Do you play any part in the SEC approval of PCAOB rules?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. What role do you play in that process?

23 A. In that process -- so that process starts with the PCAOB
24 essentially developing a rule, and then in order for the rule
25 to become effective, it has to be submitted to the SEC.

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Bricker - Direct

1 And when it's submitted to the SEC, it comes to my
2 office. I then have delegated authority from the Commission to
3 put that out for public comment which means we take their rule,
4 we put it on our website, and it's published, and we request
5 the public to provide input regarding that rule for a period of
6 time.

7 We then take all of that input, we summarize it, and
8 provide a recommendation to the commissioners in terms of
9 whether to approve or disapprove the PCAOB's rule.

10 Q. Do PCAOB inspection reports play any role in the function
11 you've just described?

12 A. They do. PCAOB inspection reports provide insight into
13 where or how auditors are performing and areas where PCAOB
14 rules might need to be adjusted in some way. And so that's the
15 primary connection for using PCAOB inspection reports in the
16 rule-making activity.

17 Q. Do you play any role in the SEC's review of comments that
18 are given in PCAOB reports?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What role do you play in that process?

21 A. The role I play in that process is that when the PCAOB
22 provides an inspection report to an accounting firm, the
23 accounting firm has the right to seek a review by the SEC, and
24 that request is made to my office.

25 And so working again under delegated authority, the

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Bricker - Direct

1 request comes in, we look at the reasons and the rationale for
2 the firm seeking a review, we look at the PCAOB's reasons and
3 rationale for having a comment, and then we make a judgment
4 about whether to grant it or not.

5 Q. And do PCAOB inspection reports play a part in that
6 process?

7 A. Yes. The inspection report is the starting point for that
8 process.

9 Q. Are the four largest accounting firms like KPMG required to
10 register with the PCAOB to your knowledge?

11 A. They are required to register.

12 Q. What is the consequence of an accounting firm not being
13 registered with the PCAOB? Let me withdraw that question and
14 ask it without so many stops in the middle.

15 What is the consequence of an accounting firm not
16 being registered with the PCAOB?

17 A. The consequence of not being registered is that the firm
18 will not be eligible to issue audit reports for inclusion in
19 those public company filings. So you have to be registered in
20 order to issue the audit report.

21 Q. Are you familiar with the grounds that exist or some of the
22 grounds that exist for deregistration with the PCAOB, in other
23 words, the PCAOB canceling a firm's or an auditor's
24 registration?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. What are some of the grounds for deregistration that you're
2 aware of?

3 A. Some of the grounds, as a general matter, would be the
4 audit firm's performance in conducting audits and the
5 compliance with the PCAOB rules, the SEC's rules, and so forth.
6 So it's a compliance record.

7 Q. Let's take a look at Section 104 of Government Exhibit 355,
8 the Sarbanes-Oxley Act on page 13 entitled Inspections of
9 Registered Public Accounting Firms.

10 What does 104(a) say, Mr. Bricker?

11 A. 104(a), in general terms, says that the Board shall
12 conduct, is required to conduct, a continuing program of
13 inspections to assess the degree of compliance that each of the
14 registered firms, as well as its people or its associated
15 persons. So the degree of compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley
16 Act, the rules of the PCAOB, the rules of the Commission, or
17 professional standards in the course of conducting audits.

18 Q. Are you familiar with the PCAOB's ethics code?

19 A. I am.

20 Q. Do you know whether or not the PCAOB's ethics code is part
21 of the PCAOB rules?

22 A. The ethics code is part of the rules of the Board.

23 Q. And looking at 104(a), what's your understanding of what it
24 means by the term "professional standards"?

25 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

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Bricker - Direct

1 THE COURT: Do you have an understanding of that?

2 THE WITNESS: I do.

3 THE COURT: You can answer.

4 THE WITNESS: The term "professional standards" refers
5 to the accounting profession's or the audit profession's
6 standards that are used to guide auditing, as well as the basis
7 for disciplinary actions, whenever an accountant engages in
8 improper professional conduct. So those standards are a way of
9 judging whether someone, an accountant, acted in a proper or
10 improper way in terms of their conduct.

11 BY MS. KRAMER:

12 Q. Do you have an understanding of the different categories of
13 conduct negotiated by professional standards?

14 A. So different categories of professional standards would
15 govern the ethics requirements for accountants who are engaged
16 in audit activities. It would also govern the performance of
17 that work, the reporting of that work, or the reporting of the
18 audit work. So those are just examples of the kinds of conduct
19 or topic that's covered.

20 Q. If you look at the upper right-hand corner of the box
21 that's popped up, do you see where it says 15 U.C.S. 7214?

22 A. I do.

23 Q. What's your understanding of what that number means or
24 corresponds to?

25 A. So that's a cross-reference to where Section 104 has been

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Bricker - Direct

1 incorporated into the United States Code.

2 Q. Are you familiar with Title 15, U.S. Code, Section 7214?

3 A. I am.

4 Q. Please take a look at what's marked for identification as
5 Government Exhibit 356 which we'll just show to the witness,
6 Court, and counsel.

7 Do you recognize this exhibit, Mr. Bricker?

8 Mr. Urbanczyk, if you want to scroll through. Thank
9 you.

10 Do you recognize this exhibit, Mr. Bricker?

11 A. I do. Yes.

12 Q. How do you recognize it?

13 A. It is a copy of the United States Code as annotated.

14 Q. What section?

15 A. Section 7214.

16 MS. KRAMER: The government offers Government Exhibit
17 356.

18 MR. BOXER: No objection.

19 THE COURT: Received.

20 (Government's Exhibit 356 received in evidence)

21 BY MS. KRAMER:

22 Q. So let's look at page 2 and focus in on subsection C.

23 Under the language: "The Board shall in each
24 inspection under this section and in accordance with its rules
25 for such inspections," what are the three things that the Board

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Bricker - Direct

1 is required to do?

2 A. Three things: First is to identify, next is to report, and
3 third is to begin an investigation.

4 Q. And what is the PCAOB required to do in an inspection with
5 respect to identifying something? What is the PCAOB required
6 to identify?

7 A. The identification that the PCAOB is required to do is
8 identifying any act or practice or omission or failure to act
9 by a firm or its associated persons that may be in violation of
10 the Act, referring to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, or the rules of
11 the PCAOB or the rules of the SEC or the firm's own quality
12 control policies or professional standards. So it's
13 identification of any act or practice or omission relative to
14 all those things.

15 Q. And in Section 2, who is the Board required to report any
16 such act, practice, or omission to, if appropriate?

17 A. The reporting is to the Commission and to each appropriate
18 state regulatory authority as appropriate.

19 Q. Is there a specific way the PCAOB has to fulfill its
20 reporting requirement under subsection (c)(2)?

21 A. There is no specific way. There are a variety of ways that
22 that reporting could occur.

23 Q. What are some of those ways?

24 A. The PCAOB could report just directly in a direct meeting or
25 direct conversation. The PCAOB could report in an inspection

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1 report. The PCAOB could also report in sort of a very specific
2 reporting type that it's developed referred to as a 4004
3 report. That's a specific type of report. Those are just
4 examples of the ways that reporting could occur.

5 Q. What is a 4004 report?

6 A. A 4004 report is a particular type of report that the PCAOB
7 has developed itself to identify a possible area of
8 noncompliance. And it might be an accounting issue that
9 they've identified in an inspection, it might be a possible
10 failure of the auditor to be independent, or it might be some
11 other act or conduct. But that's just a type of report that
12 the PCAOB has developed.

13 Q. In your experience, does the PCAOB typically transmit 4004
14 reports to the SEC on matters that the PCAOB has already told
15 the SEC about?

16 MR. BOXER: Objection.

17 THE COURT: You can answer. Overruled.

18 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I've forgotten the question.

19 BY MS. KRAMER:

20 Q. That's okay.

21 In your experience, does the PCAOB typically transmit
22 4004 reports to the SEC on matters that the PCAOB has already
23 told the SEC about?

24 A. No. Because 4004 reports is just one way of reporting. If
25 an issue has been communicated through some other means, they

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Bricker - Direct

1 may forego duplication in reporting.

2 Q. Let's take a look at subsection D. It starts on page 2,
3 and it goes on to page 3.

4 What are the objectives of an inspection that are set
5 forth here in subsection D?

6 A. The objectives of the inspection is to inspect and review
7 the firm's audit engagements, as well as their review
8 engagements that have been performed throughout the firm's
9 various offices and by its various personnel, its associated
10 persons, and to do that on the basis of engagements that have
11 been selected by the Board. So that's its first objective.

12 Then its second objective is to evaluate the
13 sufficiency of the firm's quality control system, as well as
14 the manner of the firm's documentation, how it's communicated
15 that system.

16 And then last, to perform such other testing of the
17 firm's procedures -- they might be audit procedures,
18 supervisory procedures, its quality control procedures -- that
19 are necessary and appropriate in order to accomplish the
20 inspection and responsibilities of the Board.

21 Q. All right. Let's spend a moment on what is meant by the
22 quality control system of the firm.

23 In general terms, what does that mean?

24 A. In very general terms, a quality control system is
25 essentially the way a firm ensures consistency in the quality

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1 of its audit services. So, for example, it might be having
2 policies for recruiting the right kinds of accountants and
3 auditors, making sure they have the right information.

4 It might also be having the right tools for an auditor
5 to do his or her work, the right techniques, the right
6 training, the right policies. And it might also be the firm's
7 sort of tone and their incentives; that is, how management of
8 the firm reinforces its own expectation about what's important
9 to the firm and to the auditors and accountants who work on the
10 engagements. So those are just examples of a quality control
11 system of the firm.

12 Q. Does an auditor's quality control system matter to the SEC?

13 A. It does.

14 Q. Why does it matter to the SEC?

15 A. It matters to the SEC because the SEC is placing reliance
16 on the work of auditors in looking at and conducting audits of
17 all of the public companies within our jurisdiction.

18 So we're placing reliance on the firms, and one way
19 that we are satisfied about the performance of the quality of
20 those audit services is through the quality control systems
21 that firms have.

22 Q. When you talk about the quality of an audit, are you just
23 talking about the auditor's evaluation of the numbers in the
24 financial statement?

25 A. It includes that, but it's broader. A quality audit is one

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Bricker - Direct

1 in which the auditor has an appropriately -- has an appropriate
2 state of mind; that is, they're objective. They're impartial.
3 They make judgments that are consistent with professional
4 standards. Their conduct is consistent with professional
5 standards.

6 And that that is really the foundation and the
7 starting point for then checking the numbers. So an auditor
8 has to be professional with good due care, good skepticism in
9 the course of performing the work so that judgments and
10 problems within the financial statements are identified and
11 resolved.

12 Q. Let's take a look at Section G on page 3.

13 What is Section G about?

14 A. Section G is about reporting, more specifically about the
15 PCAOB's reporting of the results of inspections.

16 Q. So let's look at what does subsection G(1) say? So the
17 language under G and then unto subsection 1.

18 A. It says that: "A written report of the findings of the
19 Board for each inspection" under this section of law "shall be
20 transmitted in appropriate detail to the Commission," the SEC
21 "and to each appropriate state regulatory authority accompanied
22 by any letter or comments by the Board or the inspector and any
23 letter of response from the registered public accounting firm."

24 Q. What's your understanding of why the PCAOB inspection
25 reports are required to be transmitted to the SEC?

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1 MR. BOXER: Objection.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 You can answer.

4 THE WITNESS: The reports are required to be
5 transmitted because the PCAOB inspection is an inspection that
6 evaluates compliance with, among other things, the SEC's rules.
7 And so that's necessary information for the SEC to have.

8 But it also includes information about compliance with
9 the PCAOB's rules and other rules so that the Commission has
10 that information in running the Commission and allocating our
11 own resources.

12 Q. From your experience at the office of the chief accountant,
13 as deputy chief accountant and now chief accountant, are you
14 familiar with the PCAOB's inspection process?

15 A. I am.

16 Q. Are you familiar with the reports that are issued at the
17 end of that process?

18 A. I am.

19 Q. How frequently are inspection reports issued by the PCAOB
20 for its inspection of the Big 4 accounting firms?

21 A. They're required to be inspected annually and then reported
22 on following those inspections. So roughly every year.

23 Q. What's your understanding about how the inspection process
24 starts for the large accounting firms like KPMG?

25 MR. BOXER: Objection. Foundation.

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Bricker - Direct

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 Establish foundation, please.

3 MS. KRAMER: Certainly.

4 Q. You testified a moment ago that you're familiar with the
5 PCAOB inspection process through your time in the Office of the
6 Chief Accountant.

7 How are you familiar with the PCAOB inspection
8 process?

9 A. I'm familiar with the inspection process by interacting
10 with the PCAOB, including through the budget procedures, being
11 familiar with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and being familiar with
12 the rules of the PCAOB.

13 Q. Is part of your job overseeing the PCAOB?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is understanding the PCAOB inspection process a part of you
16 performing your job?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS. KRAMER: May I proceed, your Honor?

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 BY MS. KRAMER:

21 Q. So what's your understanding about how the inspection
22 process begins for large accounting firms like KPMG?

23 A. The inspection process really starts with firms updating
24 their registration information with the PCAOB by providing
25 information about all of the individual audits that it's done

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Bricker - Direct

1 or plans to do for a given period of time.

2 And then the PCAOB has that information, that is, the
3 listing of audits that will be done, along with information
4 about those audits, the engagement partner, the size of the
5 audit. Those are just examples. That's where they start.
6 They start with that list of engagements.

7 Q. A couple follow-up questions.

8 What's an engagement partner?

9 A. An engagement partner is the individual who leads the work
10 for the audit firm for a particular audit.

11 Q. Do you know how that list of audits is provided from the
12 firm to the PCAOB? Is it electronically provided? Is it on
13 paper? Do you know?

14 A. It's generally provided electronically.

15 Q. To put it in context, approximately how many audits of
16 public companies do the large accounting firms perform each
17 year and then report to the PCAOB?

18 A. It varies according to firm. So it may be, you know,
19 approximately 700. It might be 1,000, sort of in that general
20 range. It varies according to firm and year to year.

21 Q. And as part of the PCAOB's inspection of one of the large
22 accounting firms, approximately how many of those 700 or so
23 audits does the PCAOB specifically inspect each year?

24 A. It varies year to year but approximately 50.

25 Q. Do you have an understanding of the phases of the PCAOB

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Bricker - Direct

1 inspection process with respect to each audit?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So after the PCAOB has gathered the list of audits for an
4 accounting firm for a year, what is your understanding of the
5 next step that the PCAOB takes?

6 A. The next step that the PCAOB would take is to receive that,
7 evaluate the list, evaluate specific areas of risk, the risk
8 that audits might not have been done in a compliant way. And
9 then the PCAOB would select specific audits for further
10 inspection by the inspections group.

11 Q. What's your understanding about when the PCAOB gives an
12 accounting firm like KPMG notice about when the PCAOB is going
13 to inspect a specific audit?

14 MR. BOXER: Objection.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 You can answer.

17 THE WITNESS: The PCAOB provides notice, generally
18 speaking, to the firm after the audit has been completed and
19 with just enough time for the audit firm to gather together its
20 audit file, its records to make sure that the auditors who were
21 assigned to that engagement are available to meet with the
22 inspectors. So that might be two or three weeks before the
23 PCAOB actually visits the audit firm's office and does an
24 inspection of the audit work.

25 BY MS. KRAMER:

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1 Q. And what's your understanding about when the PCAOB gives
2 that notice relative to the end of that 45-day documentation
3 period?

4 A. Generally speaking, it's after the 45-day period so that
5 the audit file has been assembled, has been pulled together,
6 and preserved or, said another way, archived.

7 Q. Do you have an understanding of why notice is generally not
8 given by the PCAOB before the work papers are archived?

9 MR. BOXER: Objection.

10 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 THE WITNESS: Notice is not given earlier because the
13 PCAOB is only looking at say the 50 of a firm's total listing
14 of audit engagements. And so what the PCAOB is essentially
15 spot checking all of the -- spot checking a few in order to
16 reach conclusions about the firm's quality of audit services
17 and their quality controls for the entire firm. And so earlier
18 notice, if given, would --

19 MR. BOXER: Objection, your Honor. It's a narrative.

20 MR. WEDDLE: Objection.

21 THE COURT: Sustained.

22 You can ask another question.

23 MS. KRAMER: Certainly, your Honor.

24 Q. Does it matter to the SEC as a user of the inspection
25 reports that notice is not given before the audit work papers

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Bricker - Direct

1 are archived?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Why does that matter to the SEC?

4 A. It matters to the SEC because we're counting on the PCAOB's
5 inspection program to be operating in the way that it's been
6 designed to operate. And it's been designed to operate on the
7 basis of using resources to look at a few of the engagements,
8 not all of the engagements, and then to be able to prepare a
9 report that's useful on the basis of that inspection work.

10 Q. Does it matter to the SEC as a user of the inspection
11 reports that the accounting firms comply with the PCAOB
12 inspection process?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Why? Why does that matter to the SEC?

15 A. It matters to the SEC because the SEC is counting on the
16 work of audit firms, and we're counting on the PCAOB's work to
17 give us insight about the quality of audit services that the
18 SEC is counting on.

19 Q. How, if at all, does an auditor's degree of compliance with
20 the PCAOB inspection process inform you about the quality of
21 that auditor?

22 A. I'm sorry. Could you repeat the question.

23 Q. Sure. I think you testified that the inspection process
24 gives you information about the quality of the auditor.

25 How is that?

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Bricker - Direct

1 A. The inspection process gives us insight into the quality
2 through the inspection reports, as well as through our meetings
3 with the PCAOB.

4 Q. Does the integrity of auditors matter to the SEC?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Why?

7 A. The integrity of auditors matters to us because we're
8 counting on auditors to do good work and to check the financial
9 statements that management has prepared. And so our ability to
10 place reliance on accountants as gatekeepers to the
11 information, to the financial information that is making its
12 way to the marketplace, is at least, in part, grounded on the
13 integrity of the individuals who are serving as accountants and
14 auditors.

15 Q. When the PCAOB makes its inspection selections, when it
16 chooses which specific audits it's going to inspect in a year,
17 does the PCAOB tell the SEC, to your knowledge, of those
18 selections?

19 A. No.

20 Q. When does the SEC find out about which audits were selected
21 for inspection by the PCAOB?

22 A. Generally speaking, we find out whenever the PCAOB has
23 issued its inspection report.

24 Q. And when does that inspection report get issued relative to
25 when the inspections happen?

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Bricker - Direct

1 A. The inspection report is the end of the process. So the
2 report is developed after the PCAOB has made the selections,
3 they've conducted the inspections, then they've written the
4 report. That's the point at which we, generally speaking, find
5 out.

6 Q. When does the SEC receive the PCAOB's inspection report
7 relative to when it is publicly issued and the public gets it?

8 A. At the same time.

9 Q. So the PCAOB does not share with the SEC its list of which
10 audits it's going to inspect?

11 MR. BOXER: Objection. Asked and answered.

12 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Overruled. You can answer.

14 THE WITNESS: No.

15 BY MS. KRAMER:

16 Q. Does the SEC play any role, to your knowledge, in training
17 PCAOB inspectors?

18 A. Yes. We participate in the training for PCAOB inspectors.

19 Q. Do you know if the Office of the Chief Accountant that you
20 had participate in the training of PCAOB inspectors?

21 A. Yes. Both the office and myself personally.

22 Q. And do you know whether any other offices or divisions
23 within the SEC participate in the training of PCAOB inspectors?

24 A. Yes, they do.

25 Q. Which ones are you aware of?

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Bricker - Direct

1 A. The Division of Corporation Finance is one. There may be
2 others, but that's one of the significant ones.

3 Q. And typically how long is the session that the Office of
4 the Chief Accountant conducts in the PCAOB inspector training?

5 A. It's generally for an hour on the very first day of a two-
6 or three-day training session. And it's designed to be the
7 first day because it sets sort of the tone for the inspector's
8 training over the course of their remaining training session.

9 Q. What is OCA typically focused on during these inspector
10 trainings?

11 A. Generally we focus on the importance of the PCAOB and its
12 mission and how the PCAOB's mission integrates with the SEC's
13 work. So we start with why the inspection process is relevant,
14 why the PCAOB is relevant.

15 And then, generally speaking, we move into technical
16 topics for accountants and auditors. It might be updates on
17 SEC rules or updates on accounting standards, updates on our
18 own processes.

19 Q. Does the SEC regulate auditors of public companies
20 directly, indirectly, or both?

21 MR. BOXER: Objection. I think it calls for a legal
22 conclusion, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: He can testify to his understanding.

24 BY MS. KRAMER:

25 Q. Based on your experience as the chief accountant at the

J2CYMID4

Bricker - Direct

1 SEC, what's your understanding about whether the SEC regulates
2 auditors of public companies directly, indirectly, or both?

3 MR. BOXER: Objection.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 THE WITNESS: We regulate both directly as well as
6 indirectly.

7 BY MS. KRAMER:

8 Q. And to your knowledge, based on your job and your
9 experience at the SEC, what are some of the offices and
10 divisions at the SEC that directly regulate auditors of public
11 companies?

12 A. The Office of the Chief Accountant is one, and we do that
13 include a particular rule referred to as Rule 102(e). The
14 Division of Enforcement also regulates directly. And then
15 other divisions and offices may identify information that's
16 relevant to the regulation of auditors and accountants more
17 generally.

18 Q. You mentioned Rule 102(e).

19 What is your understanding of Rule 102(e)?

20 A. Rule 102(e) is a specific rule issued by the SEC which
21 deals with, among other things, improper professional conduct
22 by accountants. So it's a source of authority for the SEC to
23 regulate accountants. It provides a basis for our work in that
24 area.

25 Q. From your experience and generally your role at the SEC,

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Bricker - Direct

1 are you familiar with what the Division of Enforcement's
2 authority is to regulate auditors and accountants?

3 A. The basis of that authority is much more generally the
4 federal securities laws such as the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act.
5 Both are sort of long-standing references to the federal
6 securities laws.

7 Q. And to your knowledge, does the Division of Enforcement
8 have authority to bring actions for violations of PCAOB rules?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you know where that authority comes from in your
11 understanding?

12 A. In my understanding, PCAOB rules, when they go through the
13 Commission's approval process, are incorporated into the 1934
14 Act. So the SEC both goes through that process for the PCAOB
15 and then incorporates those into the federal securities laws.

16 Q. Does the SEC have the authority, to your knowledge, to bar
17 an accountant from practicing before the SEC?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What does it mean for an accountant or auditor to be barred
20 from practicing before the SEC?

21 A. What that means, in general terms, is that the accountant,
22 because of that Commission action, is no longer permitted to
23 appear or practice before the Commission, meaning it couldn't
24 work on an audit of a public company as just an example.

25 Also it wouldn't be eligible to work for a public

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Bricker - Direct

1 company in preparing the financial statements; whereas, the
2 third example, wouldn't be eligible to serve on a corporate
3 board overseeing the financial reporting process. Those are
4 just examples.

5 (Continued on next page)

J2C5mid5

Bricker - direct

1 BY MS. KRAMER:

2 Q. Are you familiar with something called the American
3 institute of CPAs, or the AICPA?

4 A. I am.

5 Q. In your understanding, what is that?

6 A. The American institute of CPAs is an institute whose
7 members have met the requirements for being licensed as a CPA.
8 It's a membership body, it has an ethics code, it has a
9 disciplinary process such that accountants are subject to the
10 professional standards and ethics codes of the AICPA.

11 Q. Have you ever spoken at an AICPA conference?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What was the subject matter of the conference or
14 conferences you have spoken at?

15 A. Over the years I have spoken at a few of their conferences.
16 They have a national conference every December, it's a
17 conference devoted to SEC and PCAOB developments so that CPAs
18 can be generally informed about the SEC's rules, updates,
19 expectations, as well as the PCAOB's; and, I have spoken at
20 that several years.

21 Q. Let's turn to be PCAOB inspection reports. Have you
22 reviewed PCAOB inspection reports for KPMG?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I am showing you, the Court and counsel as well, Government
25 1. Do you recognize this document?

J2C5mid5

Bricker - direct

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How do you recognize it?

3 A. I recognize it as the PCAOB's inspection report of KPMG
4 which was issued October 15th of 2015.

5 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
6 Government Exhibit 1.

7 MR. BOXER: No objection.

8 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

9 THE COURT: Government Exhibit 1 is received.

10 (Government's Exhibit 1 received in evidence)

11 BY MS. KRAMER:

12 Q. Let's look at the front page. What is the title of this
13 report?

14 A. The title is Report on 2014 Inspection of KPMG, LLP, and it
15 is specifically KPMG headquartered in New York, New York.

16 Q. Where is the date of issuance that you said was October 15,
17 2015?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Is that in the middle of the page?

20 A. It is.

21 Q. What is your understanding about when the inspections were
22 conducted that are the subject of this report?

23 A. Largely conducted in 2014. There would have been
24 activities occurring prior to that and some after that, but
25 largely during 2014.

J2C5mid5

Bricker - direct

1 Q. Let's start to page 2 of Government Exhibit 1 and I would
2 like you to look at the first sentence of the second paragraph.
3 What does that sentence say?

4 A. The first sentence says: Inspections are designed and
5 performed to provide a basis for assessing the degree of
6 compliance by a firm with applicable requirements related to
7 auditing issuers.

8 Q. What do you understand that to mean?

9 A. What that means is that the inspections have been designed
10 in a particular way consistent with the PCAOB's inspections
11 program and that they've been performed, again consistent with
12 the PCAOB's inspections program, and all of that is done to
13 serve as a basis for the PCAOB's assessment of whether the firm
14 complied or the degree of its compliance with the applicable
15 requirements for auditing. It includes the word "issuers"
16 which is a term that generally refers to public companies, it
17 is companies that have issued stock.

18 Q. As a user of the inspection reports, is it important to the
19 SEC that inspections are designed and performed to provide a
20 basis for assessing the degree of compliance by a firm with
21 applicable requirements?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Why?

24 A. That's important because our, the starting point is the
25 design -- the PCAOB's design of their inspections program. It

J2C5mid5

Bricker - direct

1 has been designed in a particular way and that design is such
2 that the PCAOB is able to look at a few of the engagements, not
3 all of the firm's engagements, to have a basis for the
4 reporting that it does.

5 Q. What's your understanding of whether the fact that the
6 PCAOB only notifies a firm of which audits it's going to
7 inspect, typically after the 45-day documentation period is
8 over, what's your understanding of whether that is part of the
9 design that makes the inspections provide a basis for assessing
10 the degree of compliance by a firm with applicable
11 requirements?

12 MR. BOXER: Objection.

13 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

14 MS. KRAMER: It was a long question. Would you like
15 me to ask it again, your Honor?

16 THE COURT: Could you please rephrase it?

17 MS. KRAMER: Certainly, your Honor.

18 BY MS. KRAMER:

19 Q. What is your understanding about whether the timing of the
20 PCAOB's notice is a part of the design of the inspection that's
21 referenced in this sentence?

22 MR. WEDDLE: Objection.

23 THE COURT: Overruled.

24 You can answer, if you have an understanding.

25 THE WITNESS: I do have an understanding.

J2C5mid5

Bricker - direct

1 The timing of notice to a firm is an element of the
2 design of the PCAOB's program.

3 BY MS. KRAMER:

4 Q. In your understanding as a user of the inspection reports,
5 is it an important part of the design?

6 A. It is --

7 Q. Why?

8 A. -- an important part.

9 It is important because the design of not having
10 advanced notice, if an audit team had earlier notice then it
11 might essentially conduct the --

12 MR. BOXER: Objection, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 You can explain your understanding.

15 THE WITNESS: My understanding is that advanced notice
16 would enable not only the team but the firm to focus on just
17 the few, the 50 or so engagements that the PCAOB would look at
18 and not all of the engagements. But, the PCAOB is reporting on
19 the firm's system as a whole and not just those few and so we
20 are counting on our ability to have a sense for the firm's
21 degree of compliance, not just limited to those few.

22 BY MS. KRAMER:

23 Q. Let's turn to page 3. What's your understanding of what's
24 contained in Part I of the inspection report entitled -- well,
25 what is your understanding of what is contained in Part I of

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Bricker - direct

1 the inspection report?

2 A. Part 1 of the inspection report describes the inspection
3 procedures, as well as certain observations that the PCAOB
4 identified in the course of the inspection procedures.

5 Q. And, if you look at the first paragraph under the heading
6 Review of Audit Engagements, do you see the second sentence
7 that begins with: *The inspection team*?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What does that say?

10 A. It says: The inspection team identified matters that it
11 considered to be deficiencies in the performance of the work
12 that it reviewed.

13 Q. What does a deficiency mean in this context?

14 A. In this context a deficiency is a deficiency in the
15 compliance of the firm relative to one of the rules, whether it
16 is PCAOB rules or Commission rules, etc.

17 Q. What is a comment?

18 A. A comment refers to how the inspection team expresses that
19 deficiency. So, if it's identified something and then it
20 comments on what it has seen, that's generally referred to as a
21 comment.

22 Q. What's your understanding of how many deficiencies in an
23 audit -- I'm sorry, let me withdraw that question.

24 What is your understanding of how many deficiencies in
25 an inspection make it a failed inspection?

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Bricker - direct

1 A. It could be one or more. The focus is on whether there is
2 a deficiency that rises to a level that the audit report was
3 not sufficiently supported whenever it was issued.

4 Q. So, look at the first sentence in this paragraph. How many
5 individual audits were inspected by the PCAOB as part of the
6 PCAOB's inspection of KPMG in 2014?

7 A. So, in this case the PCAOB inspected 51 audits.

8 Q. And let's take a look at page 5 under the heading Effect on
9 Audit Opinion, the first sentence. How many of the 51 KPMG
10 audits inspected in 2014 had deficiencies?

11 A. 28 of them did.

12 Q. So, how many of the 51 were considered failed audits?

13 A. 28 of them were.

14 Q. Turning to the bottom of page 6, do you see where it says
15 issuer A in the heading A.1?

16 A. I do.

17 Q. What is your understanding of what is designated here by
18 issuer A, in general terms?

19 A. In general terms, the PCAOB uses this type of terminology.
20 Issuer A, issuer B, C, etc., to refer to a particular public
21 company, an issuer of stock. So, public company A was the
22 audit that was inspected, it was the audit of company A which
23 is designated as issuer A.

24 Q. So this would be, just to illustrate, the Smith company is
25 replaced or anonymized as issuer A?

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Bricker - direct

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. What is your understanding of why the Part I of the PCAOB
3 inspection report refers to the engagements with the public
4 companies that were audited as issuer A, issuer B, and doesn't
5 just include their names?

6 A. It doesn't include the company's name because the PCAOB's
7 work, its purpose is to look at the audit firm's compliance.
8 Its purposes is not to evaluate whether the financial
9 statements of that company were prepared in an appropriate way.

10 So, the use of an anonymous reference here avoids the
11 public having the misunderstanding that the PCAOB has reached a
12 judgment about the company's financial statements. Instead,
13 the PCAOB is focused on the audit firm's work, not the
14 underlying company's work.

15 Q. Let's turn to page 61. What is in part II of the PCAOB
16 inspection report of KPMG for 2014? What kind of information
17 is contained in part II?

18 A. Part II contains a discussion of the PCAOB's criticisms of
19 and potential defects in the firm's quality control system.

20 Q. Okay. When Part I is publicly released in this case
21 October 15th, 2015, what is your understanding about whether
22 Part II was publicly released on that date?

23 A. On that date, Part II was not publicly released.

24 Q. Do you have an understanding, based on your experience, of
25 the process that is used by the PCAOB with respect to Part II

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Bricker - direct

1 issuance?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So, what happens with Part II in terms of when it is
4 released to the firm KPMG, the SEC, and the public?

5 A. Part II is released to the firm at the same time as Part I
6 but Part II remains non-public in order to provide an incentive
7 for the firm to address those criticisms. And, they have 12
8 months to address those criticisms to the satisfaction of the
9 PCAOB. If they've failed to address those criticisms, then the
10 information in Part II is released to the public. Part II is
11 released to the SEC at the same time that it is issued to the
12 firm, that is, we get it, we get the non-public version at the
13 same time that the firm gets it.

14 Q. So, looking at the date of this report of October 15, 2015,
15 when did the SEC get Part II?

16 A. October 15th, 2015, roughly speaking.

17 Q. What is the first comment or deficiency that is in the
18 Part II of the 2014 inspection report for KPMG?

19 A. It's titled Concerns Related to the Tone at the Top.

20 Q. What does that mean?

21 A. That means that the PCAOB inspection team developed
22 concerns regarding KPMG's tone at the top of the firm regarding
23 the commitment to and the focus on addressing audit quality or
24 quality in the audit services, and the PCAOB has expressed that
25 concern within the report to enable the firm an opportunity to

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Bricker - direct

1 address it.

2 Q. And what does the last sentence of this paragraph say?

3 A. It says: Continuing improvement in the firm's tone at the
4 top is important, as it is fundamental to the goal of achieving
5 significant improvements in audit quality.

6 Q. Do you agree with that?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Does tone at the top matter to the SEC, a user of the PCAOB
9 inspection reports?

10 A. It does.

11 Q. Why?

12 A. As I have spoken at conferences about the importance of a
13 firm's tone at the top, it's vital to the ability of
14 accountants and auditors who are working at firms to be
15 well-supported in making the tough calls and the judgments that
16 are needed in the conduct of an audit of a public company.

17 Q. Let's take a look at page 65, the heading Deficiencies In
18 Testing the ALL. Could you remind the jury what ALL refers to?

19 A. Sure. ALL refers to the allowance for loan losses. That
20 was the adjustment in our example of \$10 where the company
21 didn't expect to fully collect on a loan.

22 Q. And what's your understanding of what it means that
23 deficiencies in testing the ALL are in Part II of the
24 inspection report?

25 A. What this is referring to is the PCAOB inspections, the

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Bricker - direct

1 staff identified deficiencies in the firm's quality of controls
2 with respect to the way audit teams were testing the allowance
3 for loan losses in the audits that they identified.

4 Q. So, do you see the second sentence here, the inspection
5 team reviewed the firm's auditing of the ALL in 12 audits and
6 identified deficiencies in the testing of the ALL in seven of
7 these audits?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Each of which is included in part 1A of this report.

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So, is it your understanding that the ALL testing was a
13 comment or deficiency in seven issuers listed in Part I?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What's your understanding about when the Part I comment is
16 also included in Part II?

17 A. So, a Part I comment is a comment for a specific audit.
18 It's included in Part II if you see the same thing multiple
19 times such that it would suggest that there is a broader
20 systematic issue, something wrong with the underlying process,
21 underlying methodology, those sorts of things. And so, if you
22 see the same thing being repeated, then that's the kind of
23 thing that would be included in Part II and that's what's
24 reflected in seven of 12 audits. There were concerns in the
25 testing of the allowance.

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Bricker - direct

1 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, I wasn't sure if there was a
2 problem with a screen in the jury box. Is anyone having a
3 problem with the screen?

4 THE COURT: Can you all see the screen?

5 JUROR: I just tilted it.

6 THE COURT: You all can see?

7 THE JURY: Yes.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 BY MS. KRAMER:

10 Q. Did you review the 2014 KPMG inspection report that's in
11 evidence as Government Exhibit 1 in conducting your job at the
12 SEC?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And, did you use this report in fulfilling any of the
15 functions that you testified about earlier?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I would like you to take a look at what's marked for
18 identification as Government Exhibit 3. Do you recognize this
19 exhibit?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How do you recognize it?

22 A. This is a PCAOB of the inspection of KPMG which was issued
23 November 9th of 2016, so this is on the 2015 audits.

24 MS. KRAMER: The government offers Government Exhibit
25 3.

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Bricker - direct

1 MR. BOXER: No objection.

2 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

3 THE COURT: Government Exhibit 3 is received.

4 (Government's Exhibit 3 received in evidence)

5 BY MS. KRAMER:

6 Q. Let's look at the front cover. So, what is the title of
7 this document?

8 A. The title is Report on 2015 inspection of KPMG, LLP, and it
9 is the one headquartered in New York, New York.

10 Q. What date was this released?

11 A. It was issued by the PCAOB on November 9, 2016.

12 Q. Is that when the SEC received it?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you review Government Exhibit 3 in performing your
15 duties at the SEC?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you use this report in fulfilling any of the functions
18 you testified about earlier?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you rely on this report in performing any of those
21 functions that you testified about earlier?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If, when looking at is this, you knew that individuals at
24 KPMG had secretly obtained advance knowledge of some of the
25 inspection selections, would that have affected your ability to

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Bricker - direct

1 rely on this report?

2 MR. BOXER: Objection.

3 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 BY MS. KRAMER:

7 Q. Why?

8 A. It would have affected my ability to rely on it because
9 this report would have been prepared on a different basis than
10 the other reports from the other firms. That is to say, with a
11 particular understanding of the design of PCAOB's inspection
12 program, then I incorporate that understanding of their program
13 into how I read and use and rely on the reports that are
14 generated by that program. So, if the program really isn't
15 working as designed for one firm, then that would be important
16 to know when using this report.

17 Q. And would that be true, would it affect your ability to
18 rely on the report even if the work papers had already been
19 archived and couldn't be changed?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. BOXER: Objection.

22 MR. WEDDLE: Objection.

23 THE COURT: Overruled.

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 BY MS. KRAMER:

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Bricker - direct

1 Q. Why?

2 A. It would be important because the premise for the selection
3 of the engagements and the information about just the 50
4 engagements that the PCAOB looked at wouldn't necessarily be
5 representative of the firm's total portfolio of engagements
6 that, audits of public companies that are regulated by the SEC.

7 Q. I would like to show you now what's been marked for
8 identification as Government Exhibit 5. Do you recognize this
9 exhibit?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How do you recognize it?

12 A. As an inspection report of KPMG.

13 Q. For what year?

14 A. This was the 2016 inspections. It was issued January 15th
15 of this year, 2019.

16 MS. KRAMER: The government offers Government Exhibit
17 5.

18 MR. BOXER: May we have a moment, your Honor?

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 (Counsel conferring)

21 MR. BOXER: Your Honor, can we either approach or
22 address it at the next break? But there is an issue with this
23 particular exhibit.

24 THE COURT: You know, normally we take a mid-afternoon
25 break anyway, why don't we take a 10 minute break.

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Bricker - direct

1 Ladies and gentlemen, leave your note pads on your
2 chairs and we will continue in 10 minutes.

3 (Continued on next page)

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Bricker - direct

1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: You sir, you may step down.

3 (Witness steps down)

4 THE COURT: Do you want to talk about it now?

5 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, if we are talking about an
6 evidentiary issue, can we wait until the witness leaves the
7 room?

8 THE COURT: Sure.

9 MR. BOXER: This Exhibit was initially sent to us --
10 well, it was said that it would be presented in redacted form.
11 Then it was disclosed to us in unredacted form and I think what
12 was just presented was, again, redacted form. We are fine with
13 and we think it is appropriate for the whole exhibit to come in
14 without redactions. I wasn't sure if the government was
15 honoring some internal thought of ours but we would have raised
16 it before but the last version we saw did not have redactions.

17 MS. KRAMER: So, we realized yesterday that the
18 version that we had in our system had no redactions and what we
19 had attached to our motion *in limine* when we just had the draft
20 form had redactions. Your Honor's ruling was that you were
21 allowing the report but that some redactions may be appropriate
22 and so we were trying to honor our initial proposal by
23 confirming the redactions to the final report of the draft.
24 Our understanding was that defense counsel wanted those
25 redactions which is part of the reason they rejected to the

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Bricker - direct

1 report in the first instance some of the ultimate issue stuff
2 that's in there. So, I think there was perhaps a
3 misunderstanding if that's not their current position.

4 THE COURT: Okay. What's the position of defendant?

5 MR. WEDDLE: I totally agree. That's why we wanted to
6 raise it at the break because I think it is just a
7 misunderstanding about what people's preferences were. But, we
8 agree with Mr. Middendorf's counsel that the whole report
9 should come in, not a redacted version. I don't think
10 they're -- we can do it on cross but -- I think it was a
11 misunderstanding about where we stood on that issue.

12 THE COURT: Okay. So, do you have an unredacted
13 version we can use?

14 MS. KRAMER: I think so, your Honor. Let us confer
15 and perhaps before we are ready to resume we can let the Court
16 know where things stand in terms of what we are prepared to do
17 and if there is any other issue.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Come back in 10 minutes. Thanks.

19 (recess)

20 THE COURT: Have you worked out the issue with the
21 exhibit?

22 MS. KRAMER: Yes, your Honor. We have an unredacted
23 version that I will show the witness and offer with defense
24 counsel's consent.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

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Bricker - direct

1 All set for the jury?

2 MS. KRAMER: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 (Continued on next page)

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Bricker - direct

1 (Jury present; witness resumes the stand)

2 THE COURT: Please, be seated in the courtroom.

3 Good afternoon, folks.

4 THE JURY: Good afternoon.

5 THE COURT: Ms. Kramer, you may proceed.

6 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, your Honor.

7 BY MS. KRAMER:

8 Q. Mr. Bricker, I am showing you what's been marked for
9 identification as Government Exhibit 5, and Mr. Urbanczyk,
10 could you scroll through this exhibit, please?

11 Mr. Bricker, do you recognize Government Exhibit 5?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. How do you recognize it?

14 A. I recognize it as a PCAOB inspection report on the 2016
15 inspections of KPMG.

16 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
17 Government Exhibit 5.

18 MR. BOXER: No objection.

19 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

20 THE COURT: Government Exhibit 5 is received.

21 (Government's Exhibit 5 received in evidence)

22 MR. WEDDLE: Your Honor, I'm sorry. Your Honor, can I
23 revise what I just said which is based on your Honor's ruling?
24 We stand by our position.

25 THE COURT: Noted.

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Bricker - direct

1 BY MS. KRAMER:

2 Q. So, before the 2016 inspection report came out, when were
3 PCAOB inspection reports typically issued?

4 A. The inspection reports are typically issued in the year
5 following the inspections.

6 Q. In what season or what range of months are they typically
7 issued?

8 A. So, they would typically be issued in sort of the May to
9 December time frame. It varies according to firm, but that's
10 in general terms.

11 Q. So, looking at Government Exhibit 5, when was the 2016
12 inspection report issued?

13 A. It was issued in January 2019.

14 Q. How does that relate, that release date of January of 2019,
15 relate to when the PCAOB inspection reports are typically
16 issued?

17 MR. BOXER: Objection.

18 MR. WEDDLE: Objection.

19 THE COURT: Overruled.

20 You can answer.

21 THE WITNESS: It is issued much later.

22 BY MS. KRAMER:

23 Q. Now, let's look at page 7. Take a look at the paragraph
24 under the subheading audit engagements selected for inspection.
25 What does this paragraph say about how many audits were

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Bricker - direct

1 inspected between late 2015 and early 2016?

2 A. It was 50 issuer audits of a particular type and then one
3 additional one of a different type. So, in total, it was 51.

4 (Continued on next page)

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Bricker - Direct

1 BY MS. KRAMER:

2 Q. What's your understanding of that advance notice of the
3 engagements and the PCAOB's ability to write a report of them?

4 MR. BOXER: Objection.

5 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Do you have an understanding of that?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 MR. WEDDLE: I still have an objection, your Honor.

9 MR. BOXER: Objection.

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 BY MS. KRAMER:

12 Q. What's your understanding of that?

13 A. My understanding is that the advance notice of the
14 engagements was different from the design of the PCAOB's
15 inspection program generally, and therefore advance notice was
16 improper because it was being evaluated in relation to the
17 PCAOB's program and enabled the firm to essentially have more
18 time and sort of advance time in its audit engagements.

19 Q. What, if anything, do you understand the PCAOB did with
20 respect to the inspections that were the subject of the advance
21 notice?

22 A. The PCAOB then needed to go back to those inspections and
23 review those. The PCAOB also needed to select additional
24 audits to inspect.

25 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Urbanczyk. Let's go to

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Bricker - Direct

1 the next page.

2 Q. Look at the last sentence in the first paragraph on this
3 page.

4 What's your understanding of how many replacement
5 inspections the PCAOB conducted after learning about the
6 advance notice?

7 A. There were ten additional financial institution audits.

8 Q. And what's your understanding about when they took place,
9 when those inspections took place?

10 A. Those inspections occurred from May 2017 until
11 October 2017.

12 Q. What's your understanding, if any, about whether those
13 replacement inspections affected the issuance date of the 2016
14 PCAOB inspection report?

15 MR. BOXER: Objection. No foundation, your Honor.

16 MR. WEDDLE: Hearsay.

17 MS. KRAMER: I can ask some more questions,
18 your Honor. That's fine.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 BY MS. KRAMER:

21 Q. You testified earlier, Mr. Bricker, that the report
22 typically comes out between May and December of the year
23 following the inspections. Is that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. So for the inspections conducted in 2016, in the ordinary

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Bricker - Direct

1 course, when did you expect to receive that report?

2 A. For the 2016 engagements, ordinarily we would have received
3 the inspection report in 2017.

4 Q. When in 2017 typically?

5 A. Typically between May to December.

6 Q. And what's your understanding about what the PCAOB was
7 doing between May and October of 2017 based on the text in this
8 exhibit that's in evidence?

9 MR. BOXER: Objection, your Honor.

10 MR. WEDDLE: Objection.

11 MR. BOXER: Hearsay. There's no foundation. This is
12 a witness from the SEC, not the PCAOB.

13 THE COURT: I think he can testify to his
14 understanding of what it would have been doing.

15 MS. KRAMER: I'll withdraw that question, your Honor.

16 Q. Mr. Bricker, could you read the sentence that has the
17 yellow highlighting that's on the screen in front of you.

18 A. "The inspections of these ten additional financial
19 institution audits occurred during the period from May 2017 to
20 October 2017."

21 Q. Do you have an understanding of whether the PCAOB can write
22 an inspection report for inspections that it has not yet
23 conducted?

24 A. No. It cannot.

25 Q. What's your understanding of how long the typical period is

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Bricker - Direct

1 between when the inspections finish and when the report is
2 issued?

3 MR. BOXER: Asked and answered, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 You can answer.

6 THE WITNESS: The typical period would be the
7 inspections occur during a year, and then the following year,
8 roughly May to December or so, five to twelve months afterward.

9 Q. When did this report for the 2016 inspections of KPMG get
10 issued?

11 A. It was issued in January 2019.

12 Q. How, if at all, did the delay in your receipt of the 2016
13 inspection report affect the functions that you usually use the
14 inspection reports to perform?

15 MR. BOXER: Objection.

16 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Overruled.

18 THE WITNESS: The delay in receipt delayed our ability
19 to use the inspection report in all of the ways that we use
20 inspection reports which include review of the specific issues
21 identified in the inspection reports for noncompliance with
22 rules, including with the Commission rules. So that means
23 referrals to our Division of Enforcement or referrals to our
24 Division of Corporation Finance as just examples.

25 BY MS. KRAMER:

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. What, if anything, have you and your staff done to try to
2 compensate for the delay in receiving the 2016 KPMG inspection
3 report?

4 A. So to compensate, I and my staff have had direct meetings
5 with PCAOB -- with the PCAOB, as well as its staff, as well as
6 meetings with representatives from KPMG.

7 Q. How, if at all, was -- withdrawn.

8 You testified earlier that you play a direct role in
9 overseeing the PCAOB's budget. Is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you aware whether or not the PCAOB's allocation of
12 money was affected by the need to do these replacement
13 inspections between May and October 2017?

14 MR. BOXER: Objection.

15 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Overruled.

17 THE WITNESS: The allocation of the PCAOB's budget
18 incorporated allocation for staff to perform the additional
19 inspections.

20 BY MS. KRAMER:

21 Q. So could you explain what you mean by "allocation of staff
22 to perform the additional inspections."

23 MR. BOXER: Your Honor, I object to the leading. He
24 answered the question.

25 MR. WEDDLE: We join, your Honor.

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Bricker - Direct

1 THE COURT: Has your LiveNote stopped?

2 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Ours has stopped.

3 MR. JASON: Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Could you repeat the question.

5 MS. KRAMER: Sure. I can't remember my question,
6 your Honor, because I was following up on something specific
7 the witness said. Let me try the question that I asked
8 previously.

9 Q. Based on your role at the SEC, do you know how, if at all,
10 the PCAOB's allocation of money was affected by the need to do
11 these replacement inspections between May and October of 2017?

12 MR. BOXER: Objection. Asked and answered.

13 MR. WEDDLE: Objection.

14 THE COURT: Overruled.

15 You can answer.

16 THE WITNESS: The budget process incorporates funding
17 for the inspections group in terms of their needs. And so
18 their needs incorporated needs in order to do the additional
19 inspections that are described here.

20 And so part of our review of their budget request and
21 the support for their budget request included their requests
22 regarding additional needs and the allocation of PCAOB
23 resources in order to accomplish this additional work.

24 BY MS. KRAMER:

25 Q. And did you do additional work in connection with the

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Bricker - Direct

1 PCAOB's budget needs as a result of these replacement
2 inspections?

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. KRAMER: May I have one moment, your Honor?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 (Government counsel conferred)

7 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Urbanczyk.

8 Q. Are you familiar with the SEC's process for receiving and
9 reviewing inspection reports?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How does the SEC receive PCAOB inspection reports in the
12 ordinary course?

13 A. In the ordinary course, those reports are received in the
14 Commission's office of the secretary and then distributed from
15 that point.

16 Q. We'll get more specific in a moment.

17 But for what general purposes, in your understanding,
18 does the SEC review PCAOB inspection reports?

19 A. In general, we review inspection reports for, in the
20 first instance, the information that they include regarding
21 compliance with SEC rules, PCAOB rules, professional standards,
22 and so forth.

23 We also use them in the course of evaluating the
24 performance of auditors generally and our consideration of
25 PCAOB rules, as well as our own approval of PCAOB's rules and

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Bricker - Direct

1 SEC rules directly. Those are just examples of the way we use
2 reports.

3 Q. When are inspection reports typically received by the
4 Office of the Chief Accountant, OCA?

5 A. The inspection reports are generally received at the same
6 time the public receives them, giving allowance for a couple of
7 days for the reports to come in to the office of the secretary
8 and then made available to my staff within the Office of the
9 Chief Accountant.

10 Q. And within the Office of the Chief Accountant, which groups
11 get the PCAOB inspection reports when they come in?

12 A. The reports -- just given the confidential information
13 that's included in those reports, those reports are maintained
14 by the chief counsel, my chief counsel, in the Office of the
15 Chief Accountant. So they're maintained there. And then
16 they're distributed across the office to the individual groups
17 that I have.

18 I have an accounting group that focuses on accounting,
19 I have a professional practice group which focuses on audit and
20 auditor independence, I have an international group, and then I
21 have the chief counsel and enforcement liaison group. So those
22 are four groups within my office. And we distribute those
23 according to our uses for the reports.

24 Q. Do you have an understanding of what the professional
25 practice group focuses on in reviewing PCAOB inspection

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Bricker - Direct

1 reports?

2 A. The professional practice group focuses on the audit work.
3 So the professional practice group focused on the inspection
4 reports for our rule making. My deputy in charge of the
5 professional practice group manages the rule-making process,
6 oversees the PCAOB on a day-to-day basis, as well as
7 administers the auditor independence consultations, the auditor
8 independence issues that our office addresses.

9 Q. Is the accounting group's process for receiving and
10 reviewing inspection reports memorialized in a document?

11 A. It is.

12 Q. When you were an accounting fellow at the SEC back in 2009,
13 did any of your work involve the process by which the Office of
14 the Chief Accountant receives PCAOB inspection reports and
15 reviews them?

16 A. It did.

17 Q. What work did you do on that issue when you were an
18 accounting fellow?

19 A. The work that I did on that issue was to prepare the first
20 draft of an office policy or process for receipt of the
21 inspection reports. And how we would review those primarily
22 focused on accounting issues, about how we would go about
23 reviewing those reports.

24 Q. And what instructions were you given in connection with
25 that project back in 2009?

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1 A. The instructions I was given was to start with a draft and
2 to work with my colleagues within OCA to prepare a document
3 that would create a much more consistent approach to reviewing
4 the PCAOB inspection reports.

5 Q. What was your understanding for the reason for that change?

6 A. The reason for that change -- it was precipitated, at least
7 in part, by the Commission learning or identifying that the
8 PCAOB had inspected the audit of Lehman Brothers a year prior
9 to that and wanting a lot more consistency in our review of
10 inspection reports for those kinds of issues that might be
11 included in PCAOB inspection reports.

12 Q. What was the outcome of the work that you did on this issue
13 as an accounting fellow?

14 A. The outcome was the development of an OCA process document
15 or policy document for doing that work.

16 Q. I'm sorry. For what?

17 A. For reviewing the inspection reports and carrying that out.

18 Q. Okay. I'd like you to take a look at what's marked for
19 identification ads Government Exhibit 353.

20 Do you recognize this document?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. How do you recognize it?

23 A. I recognize this as a document that I worked on and
24 supervised when I returned to the SEC. This is a -- because I
25 returned to the SEC as the deputy chief accountant for the

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1 accounting group, which is just one of the groups within OCA,
2 one of the early things that I did was to set forth a document
3 that would describe for the accounting group what was important
4 in the work of the accounting group and how we would go about
5 doing that.

6 Q. And is Government Exhibit 353 part of that document?

7 A. It is.

8 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
9 Government Exhibit 353.

10 MR. WEDDLE: No objection, your Honor.

11 MR. BOXER: No objection, your Honor. We may be
12 offering additional portions in the future, but no objection to
13 this document.

14 THE COURT: 353 is received in evidence.

15 (Government's Exhibit 353 received in evidence)

16 BY MS. KRAMER:

17 Q. Now, just looking at the first page for a moment, the
18 title, Office of the Chief Accountant accounting group, I want
19 to ask you a question.

20 Is this the strategy document that applies for the
21 whole Office of the Chief Accountant?

22 A. No. It's just the accounting group.

23 Q. Is there a different strategy document that exists for the
24 professional practice group?

25 A. There is not a separate sort of documented strategy, but

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1 each of the functional groups was led by a different
2 individual. So they carried out how to prioritize the work and
3 how to focus their teams in their own ways. I took the
4 approach of documenting it in this form and this format.

5 MR. WEDDLE: Objection, your Honor. Move to strike
6 everything after the word "strategy" at the start of the
7 answer. Nonresponsive.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 BY MS. KRAMER:

10 Q. When you testified earlier that the accounting group is
11 focused on accounting issues, what do you mean by that?

12 A. The accounting group is focused on essentially the
13 accounting standards or the rules of the road that companies
14 have to follow when preparing their financial statements.

15 We have the professional practice group which focuses
16 on the auditing of financial statements. There is some
17 overlap, but in terms of relative emphasis, we're much more
18 focused on the preparation of the financial statements and the
19 accounting policies that companies are required to follow.

20 Q. And do you have an understanding of why there is a strategy
21 document to give guidance to the accounting group on what to
22 look for in accounting issues when reviewing PCAOB inspection
23 reports?

24 A. Yes. So the strategy document was important because the
25 accounting group is the largest group. At the time -- I'll

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1 just give it an approximation -- we probably had 20 people
2 within that group. And so what I was focused on was providing
3 consistency to those 20 people so that we were focused on
4 common issues.

5 But still that group had a role to play in inspection
6 reports because the inspection reports include PCAOB
7 inspectors' observations regarding compliance with our rules
8 which might be accounting issues. So, for example, the
9 allowance for loan losses is, in the first instance, an
10 accounting issue. So this group needed to be aware of that.

11 MR. BOXER: Objection, your Honor. It's a narrative
12 again, and it's not responsive.

13 MR. WEDDLE: We join in that and move to strike,
14 your Honor.

15 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the question was a "why"
16 question.

17 THE COURT: I agree. Overruled.

18 BY MS. KRAMER:

19 Q. Take a look at page 4. I want to direct your attention to
20 the bottom paragraph with the subheading Identification of a
21 Referral Matter.

22 What's a "referral matter"?

23 A. A "referral matter" is a term that we developed as part of
24 this policy to refer to, identify, a specific item within an
25 inspection report that we would refer to another group within

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1 the Commission, frequently the Division of Corporation Finance
2 or the Division of Enforcement.

3 Q. Take a look at the next page, page 5. So look at the
4 second bullet that says: "The review team should consider
5 reporting matters that the PCAOB describes as a violation of
6 SEC rules or regulations."

7 What does that mean?

8 A. That's referring to the review team within OCA should
9 consider reporting or referring matters that the PCAOB has
10 described within the inspection report as a violation of SEC
11 rules or regulations.

12 Q. And is that the review team within the accounting group
13 within OCA? Or is that in a different group?

14 A. It's principally within the accounting group, but it
15 included others just to make sure that we had a cross-office
16 representation.

17 Q. And so take a look in the next sentence: "The team should
18 avoid reporting matters described as violations by the auditor
19 of independent standards since those matters are otherwise
20 assessed by the professional practice group independence."

21 What does that mean?

22 A. So that's referring to the division of responsibilities
23 within OCA. This is essentially saying don't duplicate the
24 work that's being done by the professional practice group
25 because they already have a process for reviewing those issues.

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1 Q. And is there a group within OCA that is reviewing PCAOB
2 inspection reports for issues of quality control?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What group is that?

5 A. The professional practice group.

6 Q. Let's turn to the last page, page 9.

7 If you could just try to expand the entire chart.

8 Generally, what does this chart illustrate?

9 A. So this is a chart that at the time my team and the
10 accounting group developed to visually depict how inspection
11 reports were coming into the Commission. So they were received
12 and then next transmitted -- that's the next row -- to the
13 Office of the Chief Counsel within my group.

14 Next, to the professional practice group. That's the
15 abbreviation for PPG. And then it continues with primarily,
16 you know, the detail being the accounting group because it was
17 written for individuals within the accounting group.

18 It then continues to the rows below, which CF is the
19 Division of Corporation Finance. It has its own group of
20 accountants which they also refer to themselves as a division's
21 office. IM refers to investment management. That's the
22 Division of Investment Management. And the last one is the
23 Division of Enforcement.

24 Q. Do you personally read inspection reports for the largest
25 accounting firms?

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1 A. I do.

2 Q. Does that include the inspection report for KPMG U.S.?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How, if at all, does the SEC's review of PCAOB inspection
5 reports affect the SEC's ability to fulfill its mission?

6 A. The information in inspection reports is a source of
7 information for the SEC as we accomplish much more generally
8 our mission. Our mission starts with investor protection.

9 It includes capital formation. It includes the
10 fairness and efficiency of our markets. So inspection reports
11 is a source of how auditors are complying with our rules and
12 any identification by the PCAOB on deficiencies in compliance
13 with our rules. All of our rules are, in some way, designed to
14 promote and further our mission.

15 Q. Take a look at what's marked for identification as
16 Government Exhibit 354.

17 Do you recognize this document?

18 A. I do.

19 MS. KRAMER: Mr. Urbanczyk, why don't you just scroll
20 through it quickly, please.

21 Q. How do you recognize this document?

22 A. This is the SEC's strategic plan for the fiscal years of
23 2014 to 2018.

24 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
25 Government Exhibit 354.

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Bricker - Direct

1 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

2 MR. BOXER: No objection.

3 THE COURT: 354 is received.

4 (Government's Exhibit 354 received in evidence)

5 BY MS. KRAMER:

6 Q. Okay. So what is the subheading under strategic plan
7 fiscal years 2014 through 2018?

8 A. The subheading is: "Protecting investors; maintaining
9 fair, orderly and efficient markets; and facilitating capital
10 formation."

11 Q. All right. Let's turn to page 14.

12 What is the strategic objective 1.1 in the red font?

13 A. It is that the SEC establishes and maintains a regulatory
14 environment that promotes high-quality disclosure; financial
15 reporting and governance; and prevents abusive practice by
16 registrants, financial intermediaries, and other market
17 participants.

18 MS. KRAMER: If you could go back. Thank you.

19 Q. So looking at the text under that strategic objective, take
20 a look at the third paragraph.

21 What does the first sentence say?

22 A. It says: "The federal securities laws entrust the SEC with
23 authority to shape the regulatory framework so that investors
24 are protected through the availability of high-quality
25 disclosure about their investments."

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. What do you understand "high-quality disclosure" to mean?

2 A. An example of high-quality disclosure would be financial
3 disclosures that are complete and accurate and reliable where
4 investors can have confidence in their ability to rely on that
5 information when making investment decisions.

6 Q. What's your understanding of what makes a disclosure a
7 high-quality disclosure?

8 A. It's a high-quality disclosure, as an example, if it
9 provides honest and accurate and complete information; that is,
10 it's information that complies with our rules.

11 Q. Let's look at under the heading Initiatives. Do you see
12 the text: "To accomplish this strategic objective, the SEC
13 plans to implement the following initiatives"?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. Let's turn to page 16.

16 What is the heading of the initiative next to the
17 first bullet?

18 A. The heading is "To foster high-quality audits through the
19 oversight of the accounting profession."

20 Q. What does the first sentence say?

21 A. It says: "The SEC will continue to oversee the Public
22 Company Accounting Oversight Board and its regulation of
23 independent auditors through the PCAOB's inspection and
24 disciplinary programs."

25 Q. What do you understand that to mean?

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1 A. It means the work that we do in overseeing the PCAOB is
2 important. It also means that its inspection and disciplinary
3 programs are important elements to that oversight. And
4 together, all of that work is contributing to the SEC's
5 strategic plan.

6 Q. And what does the second sentence say?

7 A. It says: "The SEC also will continue to closely work with
8 the PCAOB on the promulgation and interpretation of auditing
9 standards to address current issues in the capital markets."

10 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, Mr. Urbanczyk.

11 Q. Are you familiar with someone named David Middendorf?

12 A. I am.

13 Q. How do you know him?

14 A. Through my work at the SEC.

15 Q. Do you remember approximately when you met him?

16 A. Approximately 2015.

17 Q. Do you know what his role was at the time?

18 A. At the time he was the head of KPMG's national office.

19 Q. And what's your understanding of what KPMG's national
20 office is?

21 A. KPMG's national office, like other national offices, is an
22 element of a firm's quality control system. So it's a function
23 within the firm where audit teams can seek advice and
24 interpretations and support for the judgments that they need to
25 make.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. Did you ever meet David Middendorf face to face?

2 A. I did.

3 Q. One time or more than one time?

4 A. More than one time.

5 Q. Take a look at what's marked for identification as
6 Government Exhibit 1502.

7 Do you recognize what's in this exhibit?

8 A. Yes. It's a picture of Dave Middendorf.

9 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
10 Government Exhibit 1502.

11 MR. BOXER: No objection.

12 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

13 THE COURT: 1502 is received.

14 (Government's Exhibit 1502 received in evidence)

15 BY MS. KRAMER:

16 Q. All right. Let's turn to how you met Mr. Middendorf.

17 Take a look at what's marked for identification as
18 Government Exhibit 300.

19 Do you recognize this document?

20 Mr. Urbanczyk, if you want to just scroll through.

21 Thanks.

22 A. I do.

23 Q. How do you recognize this document?

24 A. As an email that I was included on, and I authored the
25 first email in the chain.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. You authored the first email in the chain?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And is this a series of emails that you sent and received
4 in the ordinary course of performing your duties at the SEC?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who were you emailing with in this chain?

7 A. I sent an email to the heads of the national offices for
8 Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte, and KPMG.

9 Q. Who was the head of the national office for KPMG if you
10 know?

11 A. Dave Middendorf.

12 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
13 Government Exhibit 300.

14 MR. BOXER: No objection.

15 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

16 THE COURT: 300 received.

17 (Government's Exhibit 300 received in evidence)

18 BY MS. KRAMER:

19 Q. So let's focus on the bottom of the first page at the email
20 from you dated July 14, 2015.

21 What positions did the recipients in the "to" field
22 hold at the time you sent this?

23 A. They were responsible -- they were the heads of the
24 national offices for each of their respective firms.

25 Q. And do you see David Middendorf's name on here?

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Bricker - Direct

1 A. I do.

2 Q. What was the purpose of your email on July 14, 2015, to
3 these heads of national offices?

4 A. The purpose was to let them know that I would be attending
5 a CAQ symposium -- CAQ stands for Center for Audit Quality
6 symposium -- and that I anticipated having time for a
7 discussion to listen on matters of interest or concern.

8 Q. Let's take a look at the email in the center of the page
9 that starts out with the word "Wes."

10 Who sent this email?

11 A. Dave Middendorf.

12 Q. What did he say?

13 A. He said that he also would be at the CAQ symposium. It
14 would be great to introduce himself. He'd also spoken with
15 Mark Northan who is a KPMG partner, and offered to provide
16 views on the allowance for loan loss issues.

17 Q. Did you in fact meet him that Sunday?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Where did you meet him?

20 A. We met at the CAQ symposium after the normal agenda for the
21 symposium was over.

22 Q. Let's actually look at your response at the top of the
23 page.

24 What was the date of that Sunday?

25 A. August 9.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. Okay. Thank you.

2 So where at the symposium did you meet him?

3 A. As I recall, we met in the symposium room, and we met sort
4 of at the front of the room after the normal program was over
5 and most people were exiting the room. So there was an open
6 table at the front of the room.

7 Q. Do you recall what you discussed that day with David
8 Middendorf?

9 A. As I recall just generally, I met him, as well as discussed
10 having a follow-up meeting to talk about the allowance for loan
11 loss issues.

12 Q. Did he say anything about what the allowance for loan loss
13 issues were that he was facing?

14 MR. BOXER: Objection. Asked and answered.

15 THE COURT: You can answer.

16 Overruled.

17 THE WITNESS: He described that there were challenges
18 with the PCAOB inspection process for audits of banks with a
19 particular focus on the allowance for loan losses.

20 BY MS. KRAMER:

21 Q. Did you have an understanding of what he meant by
22 challenges in inspections on the allowance for loan loss issue?

23 A. Generally that challenges was referring that PCAOB
24 inspectors were identifying comments and potential deficiencies
25 within those audits.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. What was the outcome of your conversation with David
2 Middendorf on August 9, 2015?

3 A. We scheduled a follow-up meeting in Washington at the SEC.

4 Q. Do you know what location of KPMG he worked at at the time?

5 A. As I recall, it was New York.

6 Q. Did you in fact have a follow-up meeting?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Take a look at what's marked for identification as
9 Government Exhibit 301.

10 Do you recognize this document?

11 A. Yes. I recognize it as an email and attached agenda.

12 Q. Did you receive this email that's Government Exhibit 301 in
13 the course of performing your normal duties at the SEC in 2015?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. And who sent you the email and attachment in the bottom
16 half of the page?

17 A. Dave Middendorf.

18 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
19 Government Exhibit 301.

20 MR. BOXER: No objection.

21 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

22 THE COURT: 301 received.

23 (Government's Exhibit 301 received in evidence)

24 BY MS. KRAMER:

25 Q. So let's focus on the bottom three quarters of the page

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Bricker - Direct

1 beginning with the header information in that email.

2 So what email did you receive from Dave Middendorf on
3 Friday, August 28?

4 A. I received an email that attached an agenda for a meeting
5 that was scheduled at my office the following week on Monday.

6 Q. And was the agenda attached to this email?

7 A. It was.

8 Q. Let's look at the next page.

9 Is this the agenda that was attached to the email?

10 A. It was.

11 Q. Focusing on the last non-indented bullet point that begins
12 with "inspection challenge," "inspection challenge establishing
13 reasonable assurance," what do you understand this to mean?

14 A. "Inspection challenge" again referred -- I understood that
15 to mean that the PCAOB inspection process was challenging the
16 work of KPMG audit teams, and the format in which that was
17 communicated was through PCAOB comments.

18 The particular challenge -- so the words "establishing
19 reasonable assurance," "reasonable assurance" refers to the
20 objective of an audit. The objective of an audit is to develop
21 reasonable assurance that the financial statements are fairly
22 presented. So that's a technical reference to the conclusion
23 that an audit needs to have it supported.

24 Q. When you said a moment ago that the PCAOB was challenging
25 the firm's work on allowance and expressing deficiencies, how

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Bricker - Direct

1 does that get expressed in part 1 of a PCAOB inspection report?

2 A. So in part 1, part 1 describes those as deficiencies and
3 then lists the nature of the deficiency. So comments are
4 descriptions of deficiencies, and the report reflects a
5 description of those deficiencies.

6 Q. When you met on August 31, 2015, with Dave Middendorf, did
7 you discuss the items on this agenda?

8 A. We did.

9 Q. Do you recall what, if anything, he said about the
10 inspection challenges that KPMG was facing?

11 A. What I recall from the conversation was a discussion about
12 the subjective nature of the allowance and that he thought the
13 PCAOB was essentially asking for more than what their
14 methodology could provide. So the three bullets underneath
15 were examples of some of those issues.

16 Q. What was the outcome of the meeting on August 31, 2015?

17 A. The outcome was more meetings and more discussion as we
18 sought to better understand what the issues were and what the
19 root cause of those issues were.

20 Q. Throughout approximately what time period did you continue
21 to communicate with David Middendorf about this issue?

22 A. Throughout 2015 and into 2016 as I recall.

23 Q. What was your goal in those conversations?

24 A. My goal was to better understand whether there was a
25 problem with SEC rules as a possible explanation, whether there

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Bricker - Direct

1 was a problem with the KPMG audit methodology as a second type
2 of explanation, or whether there was some problem with the
3 inspection process as a possible third explanation. So it was
4 trying to get a better sense of what the underlying root causes
5 were.

6 Q. Let's take a look at what's marked for identification as
7 Government Exhibit 306.

8 Do you recognize Government Exhibit 306?

9 A. I do as a meeting invitation on which I am included.

10 Q. And did you receive this meeting invitation in the ordinary
11 course of performing your duties at the SEC in 2015?

12 A. I did.

13 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, the government offers
14 Government Exhibit 306.

15 MR. BOXER: No objection.

16 MR. WEDDLE: No objection.

17 THE COURT: 306 is admitted.

18 (Government's Exhibit 306 received in evidence)

19 BY MS. KRAMER:

20 Q. Let's focus on the top half of the email that doesn't
21 include the conference call dial-in information.

22 So what is the subject line of this meeting
23 invitation?

24 A. ALLL, which stands for allowance for loan and lease losses,
25 guidance meeting with KPMG.

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Bricker - Direct

1 Q. And where was it to be held?

2 A. At the SEC's headquarters. That's HQ.

3 Q. Where is that?

4 A. In Washington D.C.

5 Q. And when was the meeting scheduled for?

6 A. It was scheduled for October 26, 2015, in the afternoon.

7 Q. Did you attend the meeting that this invitation was setting
8 up?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. Was David Middendorf there?

11 A. As I recall, yes.

12 Q. What, if anything, was discussed during the meeting about
13 inspections?

14 A. The premise of the meeting was a carry-on of that prior
15 discussion that we had, but it was with greater focus on
16 documents that KPMG had shared with us regarding their methods
17 and tools.

18 And so we had previously received those and looked at
19 those. So this was a meeting to discuss observations on those
20 documents, observations on the auditor guidance that was
21 included in those documents, and to talk about next steps.

22 Q. And what was your goal in having this meeting?

23 A. To continue our exploration of the issue, again, to better
24 understand whether there was a problem with our rules or KPMG's
25 audit methodology and audit approach or whether there was a

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Bricker - Direct

1 problem with the inspections.

2 Q. If you concluded that the problem was with management's
3 failure to sufficiently calculate the allowance, so the
4 underlying accounting, what remedies were available to you or
5 what solutions were available to you?

6 MR. BOXER: Objection, your Honor. The witness
7 already testified he hasn't concluded anything as of yet.

8 THE COURT: Well, that's right. I don't know if this
9 is a hypothetical.

10 MS. KRAMER: I'm sorry.

11 Q. Let me ask you again: What were the three potential root
12 causes that you were exploring in having these communications?

13 A. The three potential were SEC rules. The SEC has rules
14 for --

15 MR. BOXER: Your Honor, I object. She asked what the
16 three potential areas were, and the witness repeatedly takes
17 that as an opportunity to launch into a lecture. He's
18 previously testified. SEC rules, KPMG inspection challenges.
19 That was the question that was asked. It's not appropriate for
20 him to be giving a dissertation.

21 MR. WEDDLE: We join, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Try to answer the question
23 directly.

24 Do you understand the question?

25 THE WITNESS: Perhaps if I could hear the question

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Bricker - Direct

1 again.

2 BY MS. KRAMER:

3 Q. Let me go back for one second.

4 So SEC rules. If you determined that SEC rules were
5 the cause of the allowance issues that was leading to
6 inspection challenges for KPMG, what solutions were available
7 to you?

8 A. We could change our rules. Our rules apply to management's
9 preparation, the procedural aspects that management has to go
10 through, just as an example.

11 Q. Do these kinds of communications with accounting firms
12 contribute to your rule-making work generally?

13 A. They do. They inform us about problems or developments
14 that need to be incorporated into our rule set. So it's a way
15 of keeping our rule set current.

16 Q. If you concluded that the inspection challenges on the ALL
17 issue resulted from the inspection process, what remedies or
18 solutions were available to you?

19 A. I could propose or I could recommend that the Commission
20 propose to change the rules. Or I could issue staff guidance,
21 Commission staff guidance, regarding the preparation of the
22 allowance. And there is existing staff guidance from OCA that
23 deals with preparing the allowance for loan losses.

24 Q. Did there come a time that you reached any conclusions or
25 formed your own view about what the root cause was of this

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Bricker - Direct

1 issue?

2 A. My focus was on ruling things out, and so one thing that I
3 ruled out was the need to update our staff guidance for the
4 allowance. I also ruled out the need to recommend that the
5 Commission change its rules for the allowance. So I ruled that
6 out.

7 And then that took us to sort of the second
8 possibility which was the audit methodology that KPMG had. We
9 were not able to rule that out, but we didn't reach a
10 definitive conclusion about it.

11 We were able to rule out that the PCAOB inspection
12 process was somehow different or designed differently for KPMG.

13 Q. Directing your attention to February 9, 2016, did you
14 participate in any meetings that day with KPMG personnel?

15 A. I'm sorry. Was there something --

16 Q. I want to direct your attention to February 9, 2016.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. Do you recall participating in any meetings with KPMG
19 personnel that day?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who was in the meeting that you participated in?

22 A. I participated in a meeting with KPMG's senior partner and
23 CEO, Lynn Dowdy; KPMG at the time head of their audit, Scott
24 Marcello; and Dave Middendorf as head of the national office.
25 Also in the meeting from the SEC was Brian Croteau, the deputy

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1 chief accountant for the professional practice group, and the
2 then chief accountant, Jim Schnurr.

3 Q. Were you there?

4 A. I was.

5 Q. What was your role at the time?

6 A. My role was the deputy chief accountant for the accounting
7 group.

8 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, I see that it's just a few
9 minutes to 5:00.

10 Is this a logical stopping point?

11 THE COURT: Yes. I think so. It's almost 5:00. I
12 want to let you all go before 5:00 each day. So why don't we
13 break today, and we'll continue tomorrow morning.

14 I know you can never predict weather and trains and
15 all that stuff, but please, please do your best to get here at
16 9:15. The trial will take longer if anybody is late because we
17 can't start, obviously, until everyone is here.

18 So please be here at 9:15, and we'll try to start
19 promptly at 9:30. We'll have more coffee for you tomorrow
20 morning. I know there probably wasn't enough this morning, but
21 we're going to get two of those big vats of coffee to make sure
22 there is enough. It will be there between 9:00 and 9:15.

23 So feel free to come at 9:00 if you want. Try to be
24 there by 9:15 tomorrow morning. Leave your pads on your
25 chairs. Don't discuss the case or do any research on the case,

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1 any social media related the case. Have a good night,
2 everybody, and we'll see you tomorrow morning. Good night.

3 (In open court; jury not present)

4 THE COURT: You may step down.

5 You may be seated.

6 Ms. Kramer, how much longer do you think?

7 MS. KRAMER: We're coming to the end, your Honor.
8 Probably no longer than 30 more minutes.

9 THE COURT: How many?

10 MS. KRAMER: Thirty at the outside.

11 THE COURT: All right. Anything anybody needs to
12 address?

13 MR. WEDDLE: Can I just very briefly say one thing,
14 your Honor. It may not come up again, but I think if there
15 were more references to things like Lehman, Enron, sort of
16 scandals of the past injected into the trial, I think there
17 shouldn't be.

18 I think it's prejudicial and should be excluded. It
19 may not come up again. There was one mention of Lehman. I
20 thought we shouldn't be saddling this trial with
21 responsibilities for a bunch of events that happened in the
22 past.

23 MR. BOXER: I have a brief matter, your Honor.
24 Mr. Wada's counsel will take the next witness. So we agreed,
25 with the Court's permission, that they sit where I'm sitting so

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1 they have a clear view of the witness. I think we'll just sit
2 in the two chairs behind. Just before doing that, I wanted to
3 let the Court know.

4 THE COURT: Sure.

5 Who is the next witness? Are you talking about the
6 next witness?

7 MR. BOXER: Yes.

8 MR. WEDDLE: Mr. Ren.

9 THE COURT: Got it.

10 MS. KRAMER: Very briefly, your Honor, I think the
11 history of Sarbanes-Oxley, which includes the scandals that
12 preceded it, is likely to come up again in testimony where
13 witnesses are talking about the background and the formation
14 and the purpose of the PCAOB.

15 I don't think that the mention of historical facts
16 certainly where those scandals are not similar in kind to the
17 conduct that is at issue in the case is unduly prejudicial.

18 It's fairly difficult to elicit testimony from lay
19 witnesses about sort of fact and background while trying to
20 carve out some of just what is history. So I do anticipate
21 that that will come up again.

22 I don't think we will be doing a deep dive into what
23 happened in Enron, but I do think there will be mention of it.

24 THE COURT: You think there will be mention of Enron?

25 MS. KRAMER: Yes.

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1 MR. BOXER: I think the issue, the way see it,
2 your Honor, is are they going to sum up and say, this is
3 important to prevent another Enron or another Lehman. If
4 they're just one-offs, I appreciate that it may not resonate
5 with the jury. If it's going to be part of the summation, I
6 agree with counsel's observation.

7 THE COURT: I assume it's not going to be a major part
8 of summation or argument.

9 MS. KRAMER: No, your Honor. We can talk to defense
10 counsel about this. It's not clear to what extent the defense
11 is going to be suggesting throughout the trial, on
12 cross-examination or otherwise, that this was no big deal. So
13 that may be something that we need to respond to.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MS. KRAMER: I think we can address it as the trial
16 progresses.

17 THE COURT: I'll think about it as well and be aware
18 of it. I do think gratuitous references to Lehman and Enron
19 and things like that, there could be a point where it's
20 prejudicial. So I think I'll be watching out for that.

21 MR. WEDDLE: Can I just add one thing to this,
22 your Honor. Enron and Lehman happened a long time before any
23 of the events at issue in this trial. I think another reason
24 why it's prejudicial is we could talk about -- we could talk
25 about all kinds of scandals.

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1 We could talk about he said that they needed more
2 uniform procedures because of Lehman. I think that that casts
3 some blame on the SEC for not doing a better job in protecting
4 investors which he's wrapped himself in that mantel all day
5 today.

6 We could talk about Madoff, and we could talk about
7 the SEC's flagging of the Ponzi scheme taking place at Madoff
8 and doing nothing about it and causing the loss of billions of
9 dollars.

10 So I don't think we should go there. I don't think
11 they should go there. It's way afield of anything in this
12 case, and I think any further discussion of it is cumulative,
13 given the extensive testimony that's already been elicited from
14 Mr. Bricker.

15 MS. KRAMER: Your Honor, we could certainly talk about
16 arguments in closing. I think that is a separate issue from
17 whether someone is going to be able to, in talking about how or
18 why the PCAOB was created, will give a brief or not history of
19 it.

20 I would note that Mr. Middendorf's counsel opened
21 today, in part, on the fact that the jury will hear from a
22 witness that the PCAOB is just sort of out to get the firms and
23 find things that are wrong.

24 There was some mention of kind of the -- whether their
25 criticism was legitimate and a suggestion that what they're

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1 doing is not based in good purpose. And so I think that we can
2 certainly discuss it, but where the issue is raised in some
3 form by defense counsel, we are entitled to respond to that.
4 So I think that's something to just consider as we're going
5 forward.

6 (Continued on next page)

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1 THE COURT: Fair enough, but I do think and Ms. Lester
2 I will give you a chance to respond too, but I do think the
3 deep background about why the PCAOB was created is a little bit
4 tangential. It is what it is. We have the regulatory
5 environment. I obviously gave you a lot of leeway in bringing
6 out the role of the SEC because I think this witness can
7 testify about the perspective of the SEC here which is part of
8 the government's case, but a lot of stuff on why the PCAOB was
9 created as to what they do now I think could be problematic at
10 some point. That's my initial view.

11 Did you want to admission?

12 MS. LESTER: I was going to point out that Ms. Kramer
13 herself said that, factually, the scandals that gave rise to
14 the creation of the PCAOB are entirely different from what is
15 present in this trial so I think that points out the prejudice
16 inherent in the discussion of the creation of the PCAOB and
17 that our attack in opening was directed more to the inspections
18 process, as your Honor just pointed out. It is sort of very
19 different in nature than the general discussion of why the
20 PCAOB was created.

21 So, I think at the very least, if the evidence is not
22 precluded entirely, there should be some sort of limiting
23 instruction about it.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Well, you can let that percolate.

25 MS. KRAMER: We hear you, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: And if there are issues we need to
2 anticipate, we can try to do it before a witness who might
3 implicate them. All right?

4 (Pause)

5 THE COURT: There is one other issue that we just
6 learned about.

7 Apparently Juror 11, Ms. Dwumah, has an issue with
8 Thursday. She says she is a teacher who has parent teacher
9 conferences on Thursday and says she cannot reschedule.

10 Why this just came up -- she just I guess mentioned it
11 to Mr. Hampton as she was leaving. So, I'm not sure why this
12 didn't come up before. I guess we will inquire, we will try to
13 find out more about it tomorrow and see whether that's an
14 issue.

15 The other thing is if the government could give me,
16 give us a thumb drive with the exhibits? I believe we got a
17 thumb drive of the exhibits from defense counsel. We got paper
18 copies of everything, which I appreciate, but if we can also
19 get a thumb drive?

20 MS. MERMELSTEIN: Your Honor, I believe we dropped off
21 a CD but it has gotten lost in the shuffle, we will provide
22 another one tonight.

23 THE COURT: When did you drop it off?

24 MS. MERMELSTEIN: It is in the binders, it is in a
25 sleeve.

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1 THE COURT: Oh. You made it obvious. Okay. We were
2 looking in all the hard places.

3 MS. MERMELSTEIN: But we are obviously happy to get
4 you another one if it is not there.

5 THE COURT: That's fine. I will confirm that it is
6 there. Thank you.

7 Have a good night, everybody.

8 (Adjourned to February 13, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.)
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